

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
12 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2,
COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Chatfield in the Chair;

Councillors Burden, M Jenkins, Robinson, Spencer and Tilsley (1445).

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

- 913 The Chairman advised and the meeting noted that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.
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APOLOGIES

- 914 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bore and Shah.
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The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

MINUTES

Councillor Robinson undertook to speak to the Chairman after the meeting in connection with his request for the Committee to consider the tracking of children leaving school (Minute No 911 refers).

- 915 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed.

ROLE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – CHANGES/CHALLENGES

916 Councillor I Ward, Deputy Leader, and Jon Warlow, Strategic Director – Finance and Legal, reported verbally on the changes and challenges facing the Council including financial resilience, issues highlighted by the Kerlake Report and the Future Council Programme.

Councillor I Ward and Jon Warlow, in response to Members' comments, gave an update on the end of year forecast and the latest budget position, as more particularly referred to in the report entitled 'corporate revenue budget monitoring and mid-year review 2016/17 – month 4' due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 September 2016.

With regard to the role of the Audit Committee, Councillor I Ward did not consider it to be within his remit to direct the work of the Committee.

In response to a request by the Chairman, Jon Warlow undertook to provide Members with information regarding net liability and the impact of the pension scheme on the revenue account.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2015/16

The following statement of accounts and audit findings report were submitted:-

(See documents Nos 1 and 2)

With regard to the audit findings report, the following amended Appendix B: Audit Opinion was tabled at the meeting:-

(See document No 3)

Jon Warlow, Strategic Director – Finance and Legal, Sarah Dunlavey, Assistant Director, Financial Services, and Phil Jones and Richard Percival, Grant Thornton, explained the different sections of the reports and responded to Members' comments thereon.

In response to a suggestion by Councillor M Jenkins, Jon Warlow undertook to provide Members with a copy of the leaflet explaining the Council's finances which was circulated to local residents as part of their Council Tax bill.

917 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the Audit Findings report from Grant Thornton be noted and the recommendations set out in appendix A be accepted;
- (ii) that the final Statement of Accounts 2015/16, which will receive an unqualified opinion from the auditor, be approved;
- (iii) that the letter of representation from the Strategic Director of Finance and Legal be approved.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman was of the opinion that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency in view of the need to expedite consideration thereof and instruct officers to act:-

Members' Skills/Training

- 918 The Chairman advised that an e-mail would be sent to Members shortly requesting them to provide details of any skills/training relating to audit that they considered might be useful in the future.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 919 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1534 hours.

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CHAIRMAN