

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 30 June 2009

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Dudley Hughes (Chairman)

Tony Boto
David Brackenbury

Sean Lever
Colin Wright

PART A ITEMS

55. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Peter Bedford and Steven North sent apologies.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared under Section 50 of the Local Government Act 2000.

58. COUNTERING BENEFIT FRAUD

A report on the work of the Benefit Counter Fraud Section for the period to the end of March 2009 was submitted for consideration. The Committee noted that the amount of overpaid benefit that had been recovered was slightly lower than the previous year but that this reflected both the economic situation and the Counter Fraud Section's success at identifying where benefit had been overpaid. The Senior Benefit Officer explained the steps that were being taken to address the shortfalls highlighted by an article in the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph. The possibility of sharing data with other authorities in the county or Welland area was also discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

59. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2008/09

A report was received and noted on the progress, effectiveness, and achievements of the Welland Internal Audit Consortium (the Consortium) during 2008/09, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations and in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government.

It was noted that the Consortium's Audit Manager had formed the opinion that the Council's overall internal control arrangements provided a "Good Level of Assurance". This was an improvement in the overall level of opinion from last year and was the highest level the Council could achieve.

The Committee thanked the Audit Manager and the Consortium for their work.

60. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

The Committee considered the Statement of Accounts 2008/09, which had been approved by the Finance Sub-Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2009 subject to the approval of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (minute 6 refers). Members reviewed the accounting policies and practices that had been used. The Committee thanked Financial Services and Internal Audit for their work on the Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED:

That the Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 be approved.

61. RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Committee received the standard reports on new primary risks, residual primary risks, risk profile and outstanding actions. Members discussed in depth risks associated with major projects such as Rushden Regeneration, and agreed it would be useful for the Committee to be appraised of the associated risks and how these would be managed. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the submitted reports be noted and an in-depth report on the risk associated with the Manor Park project be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

Chairman