

FC91. AUDIT COMMITTEE – ROLE AND REMIT

With reference to Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 25 June 2008 (Paragraph FC47 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 November 2008 by the Chief Executive (a) summarising the three fundamental audit committee principles identified in the guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA), (b) advising that the principles would form the core role of the audit committee, and (c) outlining CIPFA's suggested guidance in respect of membership of the committee.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) the proposed role and remit of the Audit Committee as set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of the report;
- (2) that the membership of the Committee should be set at 6 with a quorum of 4;
- (3) that the Committee should report directly to Council;
- (4) to amend the Standing Orders of the Council to reflect these decisions,
- (5) to appoint Councillors Gow, Blackwood and Lemetti as the Labour Group Members on the Audit Committee, and
- (6) to appoint Councillor Gow as Convener of the Audit Committee.

By way of an amendment Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor J Constable moved the following:-

“Recent examples of Council meetings being held at 7pm in the evening due to congested diaries indicates that the Council must streamline its decision making structures to allow for proper scrutiny and balance.

Council therefore agrees that the new Audit Committee should mirror the membership of the Policy and Resources Committee, similar to that of the Emergency Committee.

Audit Committee meetings would follow on from the completion of Policy and Resources agenda on the dates within the Council diary that both Committees would be due to meet.

When the Standing Orders of the Audit Committee are drawn up the content of paragraph 3.4 of the Report should be amended to delete “as the committee considered appropriate” after “other members of the council” as all members should have the right to sit in on the deliberations of all Committees of the Council.

Council also notes the failure of the Working Group established by the Administration to even meet since the recess. Council therefore agrees to allow opposition members to chair future Working Groups thus ensuring their remits are properly driven”.

Councillor Buchanan seconded by Councillor Waddell moved that Councillor Patrick be appointed to the Committee from the Conservative/Independent/Non-Aligned Independent groupings. Both Members also moved, in terms of Standing Order 25.2

(ii), that “the questions be now put”. Said motion was not put to the vote as the Provost was of the opinion that, at that stage, the matter had been discussed insufficiently.

Following further discussion and on a division, 14 Members voted for the Motion and 14 for the Amendment.

There being an equality of votes and in terms of Standing Order 21.6, the Provost used his casting vote in favour of the Motion.

Accordingly, **AGREED:-**

- (1) the proposed role and remit of the Audit Committee as set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 of the report;
- (2) that the membership of the Committee would be set at 6 with a quorum of 4;
- (3) that the Committee should report directly to Council;
- (4) to amend the Standing Orders of the Council to reflect these decisions;
- (5) to appoint Councillors Gow, Blackwood, Lemetti and Patrick to the Audit Committee;
- (6) to appoint Councillor Gow as Convener of the Audit Committee; and
- (7) to note that the 2 SNP Group nominations to the Committee would be intimated to the Clerk in due course.