

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the AUDIT COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 15 JUNE 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Blackwood, Gow, Lemetti and Patrick.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Coleman and Kenna.

CONVENER: Councillor Gow.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and of Finance Services; Audit Manager, Heads of Educational Resources and of Policy and Performance Review; External Audit (B Crosbie) and Committee Officer (A Fraser).

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None.

AC7. MINUTE

There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 3 April 2009.

AC8. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 5 June 2009 by the Chief Executive (a) advising of processes for reporting on governance arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2009 and (b) attaching as an Appendix to the Report, Falkirk Council's draft Annual Governance Statement 2008/09.

AGREED the draft Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's 2008/09 Annual Accounts.

AC9. INTERNAL AUDIT: ANNUAL ASSURANCE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 5 June 2009 by the Internal Audit Manager (a) advising of Internal Audit work undertaken during 2008/09, (b) providing an overall assurance on Falkirk Council's arrangements for risk management, governance and control and (c) attaching as an Appendix to the Report, a summary of the outcomes of individual Internal Audit reviews.

NOTED that:-

- (1) sufficient Internal Audit activity was undertaken to allow a balanced assurance to be provided;

- (2) Internal Audit was able to provide SUBSTANTIAL assurance in respect of Falkirk Council's arrangements for risk management, governance and control for the year to 31 March 2009;
- (3) Audit Scotland will place formal reliance on, and obtain assurances from, the work of Internal Audit;
- (4) performance against Internal Audit Key Performance Indicators for the year to 31 March 2009 as set out in Paragraph 3.13 of the Report; and
- (5) Internal Audit operates in compliance with the CIPFA Code.

AC10. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 5 June 2009 by the Director of Finance Services advising of an ongoing review and update of the Council's Financial Regulations.

NOTED that a review of the Council's Financial Regulations is being undertaken and that a further Report on progress would be provided in due course.

AC11. STRATEGIC AUDIT RISK ANALYSIS 2008/2009

There was submitted Report (circulated) by Audit Scotland (a) summarising the findings of Audit Scotland's strategic risk assessment for Falkirk Council, (b) detailing the key issues and priorities in the local government sector and (c) attaching as an Appendix to the Report, Falkirk Council's Strategic Risk Plan.

NOTED.

AC12. FOLLOW-UP COMPUTER SERVICE REVIEW

There was submitted Report (circulated) by Audit Scotland (a) summarising Falkirk Council's Follow-Up Computer Service Review, and (b) attaching as Appendices to the Report, an Action Plan Update and Issues for further action.

NOTED.

AC13. FOLLOW-UP WEBSITE REVIEW

There was submitted Report (circulated) by Audit Scotland (a) summarising Falkirk Council's Follow-Up Website Review, and (b) attaching as Appendices to the Report, an Action Plan Update and Issues for further action.

NOTED.