

NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NORDON, SALISBURY ROAD, BLANDFORD FORUM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 9.30 AM

Present: Cllr I Stewart (Chairman)
Cllr C Kay
Cllr D Milsted
Cllr J P L Tory (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr P Webb

Also present: Mr Robinson, Mr Peachey, Mr Fanshaw of the Audit Commission.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

20. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2006

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2006 were signed as a correct record.

21. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

Mr Robinson set the context for the Annual Governance Report for the Audit ending 31 March 2006, which was a summary of the conclusions from the various aspects of audit work. He referred to changes to the Audit Commission Code of Audit Practice and the requirement to comply with international auditing standards. More emphasis was being placed on governance arrangements.

The report was issued to give the Council an opportunity to comment before the audit was concluded. He emphasised that the Audit Opinion was completely unqualified and that the Use of Resources was considered adequate in all respects.

Mr Peachey commended the co-operation of the Council's staff, and particularly the internal audit. He spoke of improvements in the presentation of the final accounts, and further improvements in accuracy.

Mr Fanshaw considered that the Council's corporate objectives were now clearer and it was sure of what it was trying to do and, importantly, not doing. He praised the systems for communication and the importance given to performance management and data quality. Considerable progress had been achieved since the Corporate Performance Assessment.

Mr Robinson confirmed that the Council was now considered to demonstrate a clear direction of travel and showing a determination to improve.

Members asked some questions of detail and clarified the grant certification process. The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to a possible re-categorisation of the Council's performance and invited Mr Robinson to make a presentation on this to a meeting of Council.

The Chairman thanked the Audit Commission officers for the positive news. He also thanked the Section 151 Officer and his staff for their contribution to the improvement in the audit findings.

Resolved

To adopt the Annual Governance Report and authorise the Section 151 officer to sign the Letter of Representation.

Reason for Decision

In accordance with the Audit Commission's statutory Code of Practice.

22. MR BARRY MARSHALL

As this was likely to be the final meeting of the Accounts and Audit Committee which Mr Marshall would attend before leaving the Council, he was thanked for his help and guidance and wished well for the future.

The meeting ended at 10.12 am.

CHAIRMAN