

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13th April, 2006 in Committee Room 3
at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Burston (Chairman)
Councillor Ms Nicholls (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Collins, Crumpton, Mrs Jordan, Knowles and Taylor

Officers:-

Director of Finance, Mr. M. Farooq (Principal Solicitor – Directorate of Law and Property), Mr. L. Bradshaw and Mr. S. Potter (Audit Managers), Mr. G. Harrison (Principal Auditor) and Mr. S. Griffiths (Directorate of Law and Property)

37 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor J Davies.

38 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Knowles declared a personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, in Agenda Item 5 – Audit Plan for the 2006/2007 Financial Year, insofar as he was a governor of Pedmore Technology College.

39 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd February, 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

40 **AUDIT PLAN FOR THE 2006/2007 FINANCIAL YEAR**

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on the proposed Audit Plan for the 2006/2007 financial year, a copy of which was attached as Appendix A to the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and approval be given to the Audit Services Division's Audit Plan, for the 2006/2007 financial year, as set out in Appendix A to the report submitted.

41

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on the results of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2004 and new developments for the NFI 2006. It was reported that the NFI was a multi-agency initiative designed to enable the cross matching of data with the aim of identifying potential instances of fraud. Data was submitted relating to investigations of potential fraud carried out in Dudley as a result of the NFI. Possible additions to future NFI exercises, as proposed by the Audit Commission, were outlined in the report.

In presenting the report, the Director of Finance commented that the relatively low level of cases of fraud identified by the NFI 2004 in Dudley indicated that the systems and procedures employed in the Borough were relatively sound, effective and robust. Members commented on various aspects of the work undertaken as part of the NFI, the implications for Dudley and the 2006 developments.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the results of the NFI 2004, and particularly the very low level of matches identified for Dudley, be noted.
- (2) That the proposed developments for NFI 2006, as set out in the report submitted, be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN