

## **MEETING OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 10th February, 2005 at 6.00 p.m. in Committee Room 3 at The  
Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Burston (Chairman)  
Councillor Miss Nicholls (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Attwood, Mrs Collins, Crumpton, J Davies, Mrs Jordan, Kettle  
and Taylor.  
Officers - Director of Finance, Director of Social Services, Assistant  
Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Assistant Director of Housing,  
Assistant Director of Social Services - Business Services, Acting Head of  
Audit Services, Mr J Boyle (Directorate of Social Services) and Mr J  
Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Mr G Stevens (Relationship Manager) and Mr J Elsby (Audit Manager)  
(Audit Commission - External Auditors).

## 32 **MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held  
on 16th December 2004, be approved as a correct record and  
signed, subject to the following amendment:-

Deletion of the word "Hope" in Minute. 19 and the substitution of  
the word "Holt" therefor.

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## 33 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Taylor declared a Personal Interest in accordance with the  
Members' Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda Item No 10 (Annual  
Audit Report in relation to the Social Services Directorate) in that his  
daughter works at one of the establishments inspected.

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## 34 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

AUDIT AND INSPECTION ANNUAL LETTER 2003/04

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance was submitted on the Audit and Inspection Annual Letter from the External Auditors, the Audit Commission. Gary Stevens, Relationship Manager, and James Elsby, Audit Manager, Audit Commission, were in attendance at the meeting and commented that on the whole, the content of the Letter was positive and that it was a good report.

## RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Audit and Inspection Annual Letter from the External Auditors, the Audit Commission, attached as an Appendix to the report, submitted be noted and that the Annual Letter be referred to the Cabinet.

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on the Treasury Strategy Statement 2005/06, a copy of which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted.

During consideration of this matter, the Director of Finance undertook to let Councillor Attwood have details showing the level of debt over the last ten years and a forecast of debt for future years.

## RESOLVED

That the Council be recommended to:-

- (a) approve the Treasury Strategy Statement 2005/06 attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted; and
  - (b) authorise the Director of Finance to effect such borrowings, repayments and investments as are appropriate and consistent with the approved Treasury Strategy and relevant guidance.
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EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

## RESOLVED

That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meetings of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve a likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A to that Act, in particular the paragraph of Part 1 of that Schedule indicated below:-

	<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u>
	Annual Audit Report in relation to the Housing Directorate	1
	Annual Audit Report in relation to the Social Services Directorate	1
	Reports required under Standing Orders relating to Contracts	1

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38      ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT IN RELATION TO THE HOUSING DIRECTORATE

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A report of the Director of Finance was submitted summarising the audit work undertaken in the Housing Directorate for the 2003/04 financial year and incorporating details of the more important findings.

RESOLVED

That the findings of the 2003/04 audit work be accepted.

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39      ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT IN RELATION TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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A report of the Director of Finance was submitted summarising the audit work undertaken in the Social Services Directorate for the 2003/04 financial year and incorporating details of the more important findings.

RESOLVED

That the findings of the 2003/04 audit work be accepted.

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40      REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO CONTRACTS

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A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on cases, arising under Standing Orders 3.2 and 29.4, required to be reported to this Committee by new Standing Orders relating to Contracts. Details set out in the Appendices to the report submitted included the period from April, 2004 to September, 2004 inclusive.

RESOLVED

1. That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted in respect of cases arising under Standing Orders 3.2 and 29.4, required to be reported to this Committee in accordance with new Standing Orders relating to Contracts, be noted.
  2. That the Director of Finance be requested to report to the next meeting of this Committee on the contract referred to as reference 719 in Appendix B to the report submitted.
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The meeting ended at 7.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN