

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 at 6pm  
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Taylor (Chairman)  
Councillor Kettle (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Ali, Mrs Ameson, Attwood, J R Davies, Ms Nicholls and Tyler

### Officers:-

Director of Finance, Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services,  
Head of Audit Services, Ms A Evan (Principal Auditor), Mr G Harrison  
and Mr S Potter (Audit Managers), Ms Moore (Auditor) and Mrs M Johal  
(Directorate of Law and Property)

### Also in attendance:-

Mr J Gregory – District Auditor and Relationship Manager  
Mr T Corcoran – District Auditor and Relationship Manager  
Mr S Turner – External Auditor

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33                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of  
Councillors Burston and Mrs Jordan.

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34                    APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor Mrs Ameson had been appointed as a  
substitute member for Councillor Burston for this meeting of the  
Committee only.

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35                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the  
Members' Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter to be considered at  
this meeting.

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36                    MINUTES

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2008, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2007

A joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance was submitted on the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter from the external auditors, the Audit Commission.

Arising from the presentation of the report reference was made to a particular comment in the report about the need for Dudley, along with other West Midlands authorities, to build on the recent efforts to increase bus patronage. A Member remarked that people were finding it very difficult to use buses particularly when faced with changes to major bus routes and it was pointed out that some of the changes had resulted in notoriously dangerous routes for people whilst walking to bus stops. Although attempts had been made to defend bus services the response from Centro had not been helpful and they had disregarded representations and continued with their plans. The District Auditor and Relationship Manager acknowledged the concerns made but indicated there were boundaries as to what could be assessed.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter and the view of the Auditor be noted.
- (2) That the Inspection Letter be referred to the Cabinet.

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AUDIT CHARTER AND AUDIT STRATEGY

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on minor amendments to the Audit Charter and Audit Services Strategy.

## RESOLVED

That the information contained in the revised Audit Charter and the Audit Services strategy document, be approved.

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STRATEGIC AUDIT PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2008/2011

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on the Audit Services Division Plan for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011.

## RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the Strategic Audit Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011, be approved.

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EXTERNAL AUDIT PLANS

A report of the Director of Finance was submitted on the External Auditors Draft Audit and Inspection Plan for 2008/09.

**RESOLVED**

That the information contained in the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted on the External Auditors Draft Audit and Inspection Plan for 2008/09, be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

CHAIRMAN