

Report No FAP15

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
FINANCE & AUDIT SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

12 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr PAS Hall – Chairman

Mrs R Camamile, Mr DM Gould, Mr MS Hulbert, Mr J Moore
and Mr K Morrell.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Mr MR Lay was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance: Mrs D Bonser, Mr D Bunker, Miss L Horton, Mr S Kohli, Mrs S Stacey and Mr S Wood.

Colin Roxburgh and Chris Williams of RSM Tenon and Mark Jones of Price Waterhouse Cooper were also in attendance.

149 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Miss D Taylor.

150 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

151 **MINUTES (FAP7)**

On the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Moore it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2011 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

At this juncture Mrs Camamile enquired into the protocol of agreeing the last minutes of the Council Services Select Committee meeting as the Committee no longer exists. It was recommended that they be taken to Scrutiny Commission for agreement.

Mr Gould entered the meeting at 6.43 pm

152 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (FAP8)**

The Committee received the internal audit progress report presented by RSM Tenon. The report focused on four areas:-

Community Safety

- Refresher training had been undertaken by staff and improvements in monitoring and case closure have been made.
- Implementation in November of a new computer system further improvement should be achieved.

Budgetary Control/Setting

- Underspend explained
- Systems in place working well

Rent Collection and Arrears

- Procedures being met
- New staff managing effectively

Enforcement Planning

- Random compliance check to be undertaken
- Feedback every three months to be implemented

RESOLVED – The Committee endorses the report.

153 HBBC REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (ISA 260) (UK&I) (FAP9)

The external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, presented the annual report to those charged with governance. They concluded that the Council's accounts showed a positive audit process and an unqualified opinion was being given on the financial statements with a positive value for money opinion. Mark Jones thanked Sanjiv Kohli and the Accountancy staff for their cooperation during the audit. Adjustments had been made on recommendations highlighted. The Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) thanked the auditors for their early assistance and guidance with regard to the implementation of IFRS.

RESOLVED – The Committee endorses the report.

154 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (FAP10)

The Committee was presented with the Annual Corporate Governance Statement. Members were advised that a reported breach of procedures had been dealt with and no financial loss had been incurred by the Council.

RESOLVED – the Governance Statement be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Council for approval.

155 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 1ST QUARTER 2011/12 (FAP11)

Members received the first quarter outturn report. It was noted that the Government's optional pay award for employees earning under £21,000 had not been implemented. The Committee was informed that the reason for this was that there was no national agreement to implement and in consultation with the local and regional trade union representatives agreement had been made to defer this course of action. It was suggested by Members that a one-off payment be considered and upon a show of hands it was unanimously agreed that this be put to Scrutiny for consideration.

RESOLVED – the report be noted and the one off payment of £250 for all employees earning less than £21,000 be referred to Scrutiny Commission to consider.

156 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (FAP12)

The Committee received the draft Statement of Accounts for 2010/11.

RESOLVED – the Statement of Accounts be endorsed and RECOMMENDED for approval by Council.

157 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (FAP13)

The Committee were provided with the Council's current performance indicators for the first quarter with 94% having met their target. Members noted that significant improvement in waiting time when calling the switchboard had been achieved and asked that this be commended to staff involved. Sickness absence was another area which had improved significantly and this should be applauded.

RESOLVED – The Committee endorses the report

158 WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 (FAP14)

Members gave consideration to the Committee's work programme for 2010/11. It was agreed that the three items carried forward from the minutes of 25 July be added to the work programme and discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – the work programme be agreed with the abovementioned additions.

(The meeting closed at 8.25 pm)