

MINUTES of the meeting of the **AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** held at 9.30 am on 12 February 2013 at G10 - County Hall.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting.

Elected Members:

Mr Nick Harrison (Chairman)
Mr W D Barker OBE (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Stephen Cooksey
Mr Mel Few

Apologies:

Denis Fuller, Substituted by Mr David Harmer

In Attendance

Allan Wells, Lead Legal Manager
Tom Pooley, Scrutiny Officer

1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Denis Fuller. David Harmer was appointed as a substitute.

2/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

3/13 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 3]

There were no questions or petitions.

4/13 BUSINESS PLANNING 2013-2018 [Item 4]

Witnesses:

Sheila Little – Chief Finance Officer

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The recommendations from the 5 February Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet were tabled. Members noted that follow up action by the Committee was required on recommendations (b), (c) and (e).
2. It was suggested that with regards to recommendation (c), 'That the PWLB borrowing strategy be supported by fixed trigger points at which instigation to borrow be taken', there be a future report to both Audit & Governance and Council Overview & Scrutiny Committees to discuss these triggers and determine when borrowing is the correct course of action.

Recommendations:

That the decisions agreed in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy on 1 February 2013, be endorsed.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

That the actions required of the Committee under recommendations B, C and E be reflected in the Recommendations Tracker (**Recommendations tracker ref: A1/13**).

5/13 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER: DISPENSATION FOR MEMBERS TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING [Item 5]

Witnesses:

Sheila Little – Chief Finance Officer
Allan Wells – Lead Manager, Legal

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. It was noted that the Council had received legal advice from Central Government that granting a dispensation was not necessary, as being a council tax payer was not a disclosable pecuniary interest in itself. However, government advice had not covered the issue of a Member being a freeholder or leaseholder of a property within Surrey, which would be a pecuniary interest. Therefore it was agreed to continue with the recommendation to grant a dispensation to all County Councillors, to enable them to participate and vote at the Council budget meeting.

Recommendations:

That all County Councillors are granted a dispensation to enable them to participate in and vote at the Council budget meeting on 12 February 2013.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

None.

Meeting ended at: 9.39 am

Chairman