

AUDIT COMMITTEE
31 JANUARY 2006

Present: Councillors Birch, Bird (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Bing), Hancock, Lock (in the Chair), and Silverson.

Councillor Daniel, the Portfolio Holder for Environment, was present at the invitation of the Chair to be available to answer questions.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bing and from Councillor Lock, the Chair, for his late arrival.

Councillor Silverson, the Vice-Chair took the Chair at the start of the meeting until the arrival of Councillor Lock at 6.05 pm.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting.

16. REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF WASTE RECYCLING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Chief Auditor submitted a report on the findings contained in the audit report. The management response was submitted as a separate report from the Executive Director, Environment and Safety. Both reports were considered together. These reports had been submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2006 when consideration had been deferred to enable members to see the full Audit report. The full report was appended to the report of the Chief Auditor.

Members of the Committee highlighted areas of particular concern in the report and asked questions of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Executive Director of Environment and Safety, Chief Auditor and the two Group Auditors. The officers stated that new systems and operating procedures had been introduced that should ensure that similar problems did not occur again.

RESOLVED – that: -

- (1) the report be noted and a follow up risk review of the new arrangements be carried out after six months to ensure that the new controls are operating effectively;**
- (2) project plans for all new projects costing in excess of £50,000 to be approved by the appropriate Executive Director and a risk management strategy be in place before commencement of the project;**
- (3) Executive Directors involve the Procurement Officer in projects where appropriate to ensure that best value is achieved;**
- (4) Executive Directors be required to ensure that necessary Council resources are in place in respect of all external funding bids and review resources when bid approval is received;**
- (5) A follow up risk review of Waste Recycling be reported back to the Committee in nine months time;**
- (6) In future summary reports be submitted to the Committee in respect of those risk reviews that achieve an A, B, or C rating,**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
31 JANUARY 2006**

although members may individually request to be provided with the full report in respect of reviews with any rating, and the full report be submitted in respect of any risk review receiving a D rating; and

- (7) All members of the Council be invited to the half-day training session on fraud, internal controls, audit, risk management and the role of the Audit Committee.**

17. DEFRA RECYCLING INITIATIVE AUDIT REPORT – MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

This report was considered together with the Chief Auditors report as set out in minute no 16.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.38 pm)