

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
15 JANUARY 2008**

Present: Councillors, Bird, Chowney, Pragnell, Silverson, and Smith (in the Chair).

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made no declarations of interest at this meeting

16. REVIEW OF DATA QUALITY

The Head of Policy and Performance presented the report of the Chief Auditor on the outcome of a review of data quality carried out by external auditors, Pannell Kerr Forster (PKF), during November 2007. The Chief Auditor presented apologies for absence from Colin Owen, Audit Manager at PKF who was unable to attend.

PKF had concluded that Hastings performed well and above the minimum requirements specified by the Audit Commission in establishing arrangements for securing the quality of its data. The full report was appended including an action plan for continuous improvement.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the staff concerned be thanked and updates on the action plan be requested.

17. USE OF RESOURCES OUTCOME 2007

The Chief Auditor submitted a report on the outcome of the Audit Commission's opinion on the use of resources for 2006/07. The Audit Commission had concluded that the Council's score for the use of resources was 3 (consistently above minimum requirements – performing well). The scores for the five elements were as follows: -

Element	Score
Financial Reporting	2
Financial Management	3
Financial Standing	3
Internal Control	2
Value for Money	3

This opinion would be included as part of the Annual Audit Inspection Letter which would be presented to the Audit Committee in March 2008.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the report be welcomed and all staff involved be thanked for their hard work.

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18. SUMMARY AUDIT AND RISK REPORT

The Chief Auditor submitted a report on internal audit findings in respect of the General Ledger and Audit of Asset Accounting. The audits had concluded that both of these services were rated B - Satisfactory.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the report be noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.25 pm)