

MINUTES OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2009

Members present:

Michael Colne (Chair), Sarah Coffey, Kevin McGetrick, Stuart Nagler, Sue Warman, Allan Witherick

Officers in attendance:

Neil Gibson	Audit Manager, Audit Commission
Mark Hodgson	District Auditor, Audit Commission
James Hurley	Director of Resources, Hertfordshire Constabulary
Sally-Ann Pearcey	Senior Internal Auditor
Brian Pereira	Performance and Operations Manager
Chris Powell	Head of Finance, Hertfordshire Constabulary
Emma Reed	Members' Services Officer, Hertfordshire Police Authority
Nigel Studley	Internal Audit
Chris Sweeney	Treasurer, Hertfordshire Police Authority
Andrew White	Chief Executive, Hertfordshire Police Authority

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chris Kay

Nigel Studley substituted for Chris Kay for this meeting only.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Audit Committee held on Friday 5 December 2008 were confirmed by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INTERIM AUDIT 2008/2009 AND THE AUDIT PLANNING ROUND 2009/10 – oral report

Neil Gibson reported that the scale fee for this year was likely to be reduced by 10-15% as Hertfordshire was assessed as low risk. This was likely to reduce the Audit change to approximately £75,000. It was expected that all aspects of the audit would be concluded by August.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted that there had been no issues raised by the Audit so far.

5. SUPPLEMENTARY OPINION AUDIT PLAN FOR 2008/09

The Committee considered the letter to James Hurley from the Audit Commission. It was likely that issues related to the “credit crunch” would need to be covered. The Chief Executive reported that the Authority had commissioned an independent report into the Heritable Bank investments that had found no significant process issues. The Authority had since amended its Treasury Management strategy to take account of the changed world financial situation.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted that there are no changes to the audit structure and fee at this stage.

INTERNAL AUDIT

6. PROPOSED INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR 2009/10

The Committee considered the report and commented on the draft Internal Audit Plan for 2009/10 that would cost £75,000 including £1,000 contingency.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted and agreed the report and discussed the collaborative audit plans with Bedfordshire Police Authority.

POLICE AUTHORITY

7. RISK REGISTER

The Committee considered and commented on the revised Risk Register.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agreed:

- That the risk register should be numbered
- That reputational risk should be considered

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolution:

“That under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest test not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.”

POLICE AUTHORITY

8. RISK REGISTER

The Committee considered the updated Risk Register.

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted the report.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday 26 June 2.00pm, Committee Room B

Friday 25 September 2.00pm, Committee Room B

Friday 27 November 10.30am, Committee Room B

Stuart Nagler thanked Michael Colne for all his hard work as Chair of the Audit Committee since this was his last meeting due to the forthcoming County Council elections.

Chair