

Audit Governance and Improvement Review Committee

6 December 2007

Present at the meeting:

Councillor M W Winstanley (Chairman)	Councillor Ms P L Holland
Councillor R M Bleakley	Councillor C Sweeney
Councillor Ms P Cullen	Mr T Addison (Independent Member)
Councillor B J Fagan	Mr W Anderton (Independent Member)
Councillor T W Halliwell (Cabinet Champion)	Mr P Connor (Independent Member)

44 Welcome to new Members: On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman extended a warm welcome to Councillor Ms P Cullen, new Member of the Committee.

45 Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs K Aldred, J Haley, J Miller, P Prescott and C Rigby.

46 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 September 2007 were approved as a correct record.

47 Exclusion of the public - Section 100a Local Government Act 1972:
Resolved: The public is excluded from the meeting when the Committee discusses the following items for the reasons set out below:-

Agenda item No.	Title of report	Minute No.	Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972
E1	Internal Audit Activities Report	53	1 (Information about any named person) and; 2 (Information which might reveal the identity of a person)
E2	Human resources information quarter 2	54	2 (Information which might reveal the identity of a person)
E3	Sickness information quarter 2	55	2 (Information which might reveal the identity of a person)
E4	HR delegations quarter 2	56	2 (Information which might reveal the identity of a person)
E5	NPS 2nd quarter 07/08 performance report	57	3 (Information about the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation, including the council)

48 Finance and Information Technology Department 2007/08 - service plan update, quarter 2: The Committee considered a report that updated Members on the department's performance at the end of the second quarter 2007/08.

Members asked questions to which the Director of Finance and Information Technology responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his son and daughter-in-law's employment with Wigan Council. Councillor T W Halliwell declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his employment with Wigan and Leigh College).

49 Use of resources judgement: The Committee considered a report from the Council's External Auditors that updated Members on the Council's use of resources position and confirmed that the Authority had been scored at 4, the maximum possible score.

Members asked questions to which the Director of Finance and Information Technology responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted and wishes to place on record its thanks to the Finance and Information Technology Department and all who have contributed to the assessment for this achievement.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his son and daughter-in-law's employment with Wigan Council).

50 Finance and Information Technology Department performance: The Committee considered a report on the department's performance in collecting council tax and national non-domestic rates, benefit payments and collection of income in 2007/08.

Members asked questions to which the Director of Finance and Information Technology responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his son and daughter-in-law's employment with Wigan Council).

51 Legal and Property Services Department - performance report for the second quarter 2007/08: The Committee considered a report on the performance of the Department against its departmental performance indicators and key tasks at the end of the second quarter of 2007/08.

Members asked questions to which the Deputy Director of Legal and Property services responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

Audit Governance and Improvement Review Committee (6.12.07)

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his son and daughter-in-law's employment with Wigan Council and also because he is a Member of the Standards Committee).

52 Corporate plan performance report quarter 2, 2007/08: The Committee considered a report, which had been submitted to Cabinet (minute 214 refers), on performance against the authority's key performance indicators in the second quarter of 2007/08.

Members asked questions to which the Assistant Chief Executive responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because he is a Member of the Appointments Committee).

53 Internal audit activities report: The Committee considered a report that updated Members of internal audit activity for the first half of the financial year along with details of key issues arising from individual internal audit reviews.

Members asked questions to which the Director of Finance and Information Technology responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because his daughter is a Member of the Children and Young People's Panel).

54 Human resource information: The Committee considered the following information for Members:-

- (1) Recruitment statistics
- (2) Central training statistics
- (3) Early retirement / voluntary redundancy
- (4) Honoraria under £5,000 p.a.
- (5) Honoraria over £5,000 p.a.
- (6) Suspensions.

Members asked questions to which the Assistant Chief Executive responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

55 Quarterly review of sickness - quarter 2: The Committee considered a report showing the summary and submissions from departments for sickness absence management for the period 1 July – 30 September 2007.

Members asked questions to which the Assistant Chief Executive responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his son and daughter-in-law's employment with Wigan Council).

56 Human resource delegations - quarter 2: The Committee considered a report on decisions taken under delegated powers in regard to human resources issues.

Members asked questions to which the Assistant Chief Executive responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

57 NPS (NW) Ltd half yearly report 2007/08: The Committee considered a report, which was to be submitted to Cabinet, on the performance of NPS (NW) Ltd over the first and second quarter's of 2007/08.

Members asked questions to which the Deputy Director of Legal and Property services responded.

Resolved: The Committee accepts the report now submitted.

(Councillor B J Fagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item because of his son and daughter-in-law's employment with Wigan Council).

58 Vote of thanks: Agreed: The Committee extends its best thanks to Adrian Hardy, Assistant Chief Executive on his retirement for the excellent services rendered by him during the his time at Wigan Council and its best wishes for a long, happy and successful retirement.

Chairman