
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 13 December 2010

**EX.217/10 REFERENCE FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – ANNUAL AUDIT
LETTER 2009/10
(Non-Key Decision)**

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute AUC.76/10, consideration was given to a reference from the Audit Committee on 30 November 2010 concerning the City Council's Annual Audit Letter for 2009/10. The Audit Committee had resolved:

- "(1) That the Committee welcomed submission of the Annual Audit Letter for 2009/10 and were particularly pleased to note that the District Auditor had on 30 September 2010 issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and also an unqualified value for money conclusion, stating that the Council had satisfactory arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- (2) That the Committee noted the Council's strong performance in its use of natural resources.
- (3) That the new approach to local value for money work from 2010/11, which would concentrate on ensuring that the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure financial resilience and challenge how it secured economy, efficiency and effectiveness, be drawn to the attention of the Executive. The Audit Committee would keep a watching brief on the matter.
- (4) That the Committee received the update from the District Auditor concerning the objection to the Council's accounts; noting that the matter was progressing.
- (5) That the Committee's thanks and appreciation of the considerable amount of hard work undertaken by the Assistant Director (Resources) and his staff, which contributed towards the 2009/10 audit findings be placed on record.
- (6) That the Committee wished to congratulate those members of staff who had contributed towards the Council's effective use of National Fraud Initiative reports to identify and appropriately review data matches. As a result of that work the Council had identified savings in benefits of approximately £52,000 and £40,000 from single person Council Tax discounts."

Copies of Minute Excerpt AUC.76/10 and the Annual Audit Letter 2009/10 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee then outlined in some detail the recommendations made by the Audit Committee as set out above and also the key messages contained within the Annual Audit Letter, pointing out that the Committee had placed on record their thanks to members of staff for what was a very positive Audit Letter.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder was very pleased with the Annual Audit Letter which evidenced a great deal of good and hard work by staff. He wished to record the thanks of the Executive to staff involved.

The Leader echoed the above sentiments.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the reference from the Audit Committee be received, it being noted that the Annual Audit Letter was to be submitted to the City Council for consideration.
2. That the Executive wished to place on record their thanks and appreciation of the hard work undertaken by the Assistant Director (Resources) and his staff which had contributed towards such a positive Annual Audit Letter.

Reasons for Decision

To respond to a reference from the Audit Committee concerning the Annual Audit Letter 2009/10