

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE AUDIT BOARD

THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2011

AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors L. C. R. Mallett (Chairman), Dr. B. T. Cooper,
Miss P. A. Harrison and Mrs. H. J. Jones

Observers: Councillors C. J. Bloore, R. J. Shannon and S. P. Shannon

Officers: Mrs. D. Randall, Ms. G. Tanfield and Mr. A. C. Stephens

13/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. S. Brogan, Mrs. M. T. Buxton and S. J. Dudley.

14/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

15/11 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Board held on 9th June 2011 were submitted.

It was reported that the reference to the Bribery Act 2003 in minute no. 6/11 should, in fact, refer to the Bribery Act 2010. In addition, with reference to minute no. 9/11, a copy of the revised Internal Audit Plan 2011/2012 was circulated to Members of the Board.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment to minute no. 6/11 referred to above, the minutes be approved as a correct record.

16/11 **PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE: FIGHTING FRAUD AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the work of the Audit Commission in the field of fraud detection and prevention, and the identity of fraud risks, together with detailing some of the actions taken by local authorities to tackle fraud and provide links to tools to help councils improve their counter-fraud defences.

RESOLVED

(a) that the Council commits itself to fight fraud, bribery and corruption which may be perpetrated against it in accordance with the self-

- assessment checklist reproduced at Appendix 1 to the report; and that the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team take an active role in identifying and preventing any future fraud, bribery and corruption risks; and
- (b) that the completed checklist be presented to the next meeting of the Board for information.

17/11 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraphs of that part being as set out below, and that it is in the public interest to do so:

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
18/11	1 and 2

18/11 **CORPORATE ANTI FRAUD PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010 - 2011**

The Board gave consideration to a report which outlined the activities of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team during 2010/2011, and for the period April to September 2011. Members of the Board asked several questions of the Financial Services Manager in respect of the fraud figures referred to in the report, the full details of which would require a response from the Fraud Services Manager.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the report be noted; and
- (b) that further information on the two cases referred to in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 be presented to the next meeting.

19/11 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraph of that part being as set out below, and that it is in the public interest to do so:

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
20/11	7

20/11 **INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report on Internal Audit's performance for the period 1st April to 30th October 2011 against the performance indicators agreed for the Service for the financial year 2011/2012.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Internal Audit Monitoring Report and the Recommendation Tracker be noted;
- (b) that the Forward Plan of work undertaken as part of the Internal Audit Monitoring Report be presented to the Board in order for Members to contribute to it; and
- (c) that an additional meeting of the Board be arranged in order that Heads of Service can attend and questioned on the outstanding audits yet to be completed.

(Note: At 6.50 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to allow Members of the Board to peruse an additional appendix detailing the progress made against each of the outstanding actions from the 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 audits. The meeting reconvened at 7.00 p.m. and, after consideration of the appendix, proceedings reverted back to being held in public session.)

21/11 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report relating to the Council's Treasury Management performance for the financial year 2010/2011.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Performance report for 2010/2011, as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted.

RECOMMENDED that the maximum level of investment to be held within a single organisation (bank or building society), as detailed in the report, be set at £3 million, subject to market conditions.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Chairman