

**ACCOUNTS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE
22 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present :- Councillor Dennis Willetts (Chairman)
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Wyn Foster,
Martin Goss, Dave Harris, Jackie Maclean,
Jon Manning, Gerard Oxford, Lesley Scott-Boutell
and Nick Taylor

Substitute Member :- Councillor Peter Higgins
for Councillor Theresa Higgins

13. Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 30 June 2009 was confirmed as a correct record.

14. Office of High Steward

Ms. Amanda Chidgey, Democratic Services Manager, attended the meeting for this item and presented the report 'Office of High Steward'.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Committee acknowledged the letter from Sir Ivor Crewe, formally offering his resignation from the Office of High Steward.
- ii) The Committee approved the following recommendation to the Council:
 - (a) Sir Ivor Crewe's wish to relinquish the role of High Steward for the reasons set out in his formal letter of resignation, be accepted and
 - (b) No arrangements be made at the present time regarding the appointment of a successor to the Office of High Steward"

15. Annual Statement of Accounts

Mr. Paul King, District Auditor, attended the meeting for the following item.

15. Annual Statement of Accounts

Mr. King, District Auditor, and Mr. Steve Heath, Finance Manager attended the meeting for this item, and Mr. King introduced the report on the 2008-09 Annual Governance Report. Mr. King drew the member's attention to the key

issues members should consider and the decision required by the Committee.

Mr. King, in response to Councillors Manning and Willetts, confirmed recommendation 1 on page 8 of the Audit Commission report, and explained why appendix 4 had been omitted from the report, that being that no statements had been corrected and therefore there was no information to provide.

Mr. King confirmed to Councillor Arnold that a separate Use of Resources Statement would be reported to the Committee at a later date, and would set out the findings in greater detail.

Mr. King gave the committee a fuller explanation on the unadjusted misstatements in the accounts, specifically in regards to the impairment figures. Mr. Heath explained that the management's response to the auditor's view of misstatements that had not been corrected would be reflected in the representation letter to be signed off by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

The Committee thanked officers for their efforts in completing the Annual Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED that the Committee i) accepted the Auditor's report, ii) noted the comments in the covering report, and iii) approved the letter of representation subject to the inclusion of the explanations given at paragraph 2.5 of the covering report.