

ACCOUNTS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2011

Present :- Councillor Sue Lissimore (Chairman)
Councillors Mark Cory, Annie Feltham, Scott Greenhill,
Justin Knight, Michael Lilley, Jon Manning and
Will Quince

Substitute Member :- Councillor Beverly Davies for Councillor Pauline Hazell

Also in Attendance :- Councillor Colin Sykes
Councillor Paul Smith

3. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 22 February 2011 and the 18 May 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. Audit Fee Letter

Ms. Debbie Hanson, District Auditor, attended the meeting for this item and presented the report on the Audit Fee Letter 2011/12.

Ms. Hanson said the charge for 2011/12 was based on the 2010/11 fee, but adjusted to reflect a reduction in the work during 2011/12. Ms. Hanson said it had therefore been determined that the fee would be the 2010/11 less 5%, providing a fee of £132,573 (down from £139,550).

Ms. Hanson responded to Councillor Manning, saying it was unlikely that the fee would rise, though a significant change to the work programme could result in a further fee reduction.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the Annual Audit Fee Letter for 2011/12.

Councillor Colin Sykes (in respect of his membership of Stanway Parish Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

5. Stanway Community Governance Review

Councillor Colin Sykes addressed the Committee to explain that the report was recommending that the review continued on to the final stage of consultation, and asked the Committee to support this decision.

Councillor Sykes said he believed the current boundary was an anomaly, there due to the heavy-handedness of the Boundary Commission. Councillor Sykes spoke about

the imbalance in the Parish Councillor ratio to the electorate within each of the two Parish Wards, concluding that a return to one Parish Ward served by fifteen members was a far more equitable way of spreading the workload.

Councillor Cory, representing the Wivenhoe Ward that had itself been the subject of a similar type of review in 2010, to combine its two Town Council wards, completely agreed with the comments of Councillor Sykes saying it would allow Councillors to be more representative of the whole electoral area. Councillor Cory supported the decision to continue the consultation process.

Councillor Manning said he fully supported the decision to continue the consultation process, adding that the single Parish Ward would enhance community engagement.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the outcome of the initial public consultation to combine the two parish wards and create one electoral area, and approved the draft proposal for further consultation.

6. Annual Statement of Accounts 2010/11 - Revised Procedures

Mr. Steve Heath, Finance Manager, presented the report to the Committee, notifying Members of the revised procedures for the Annual Statement of Accounts (ASOA) 2010/11.

Mr. Heath said the ASOA 2010/11, to be approved by the Council's Section 151 Officer would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee. Mr. Heath said the Committee would receive a separate internal briefing session on the ASOA prior to approval.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the revised procedures for the approval of the accounts and agreed to a separate internal briefing session immediately prior to the meeting to approve the ASOA.

7. Annual review of the Governance Framework and 2010-11 Statement

Ms. Hayley McGrath, Risk and Resilience Manager, presented the report on the Annual review of the Governance Framework and 2010/11 Statement, a report that provided an explanation of the Annual Governance Statement to be reported to the Committee later in the year.

RESOLVED that the Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/11 and considered and noted the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2011/12.