

**AUDIT COMMITTEE - 26 AUGUST 2008**

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**Audit Committee**

**Tuesday 26 August 2008 at 3.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors Ahlfeld, Blair, Clocherty, Dorrian, Fyfe, Loughran, MacLeod and McCallum.

**Chair:** Councillor Blair presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Improvement & Performance, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Internal Auditor and Mr F Jarvie (for Head of Legal & Administration).

**Present also:** Mr P Tait, Ms E Boyd and Mr J Cumming, Audit Scotland.

**Apologies:** Provost McCormick, Councillors Brooks and Ferguson.

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.**

**524 Risk Management Progress Report 524**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance on the progress made on risk management since the meeting of the Audit Committee on 13 May 2008.

**Noted**

**525 External Audit Progress Report 525**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting to Members reports produced by the External Auditors, Audit Scotland, since the last Audit Committee meeting.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee record its appreciation of the work undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer and his staff in the Benefits Team; and
- (2) that the matters raised in these reports be noted.

**526 External Audit Action Plans - Outstanding Actions 526**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance advising Members of the status of outstanding actions from External Audit Action Plans as at 30 June 2008.

**Decided:**

- (1) that a report by the Chief Internal Auditor on the common good fund be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit Committee; and
- (2) that the report and the progress to date in relation to the implementation of External Audit recommendations be noted.

**527 Internal Audit Progress Report - May to July 2008 527**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting to Members the monitoring report for Internal Audit activity from 21 April to 31 July 2008.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress made by Internal Audit in the reporting period be noted;

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(2) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education & Social Care to submit a report on the Council's contracts with Inverclyde Taxis to the next meeting of the Committee; and

(3) that the Corporate Director Education & Social Care submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee to confirm that all taxi drivers on school and Social Work contracts are appropriately Disclosure checked.

**528 Risk Management Annual Report**

**528**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting to Members (as part of the Corporate Government Framework) a report on progress made in 2007/08 and developing and monitoring a strategic approach to managing risks faced by the Council.

**Noted**

**529 Internal Audit Annual Report and Assurance Statement 2007/08**

**529**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting the Internal Audit Annual Report and assurance statement for 2007/08, which forms part of the Council's statement on the system on Internal Financial control.

**Decided:** that the Internal Audit Annual Report and the assurance statement 2007/08 be noted.

**530 Anti Fraud and Irregularity Polices**

**530**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Improvement & Performance presenting to Members the recently revised and updated Anti-Fraud and Irregularity Policy.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Anti-Fraud and Irregularity Policy for adoption by the Council be approved; and

(2) that the Chief Internal Auditor works with the Head of Corporate Communication & Public Affairs to ensure that this policy is effectively communicated to all stakeholders.

**It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**531 Report on Internal Audit Activity - Appendix**

**531**

There was submitted Appendix to the Internal Audit Progress report providing details of special investigations undertaken since the last meeting of the Committee.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the concerns expressed by a number of Members in respect of the outcome of the investigation; and

(2) that the reports be noted.