

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL
OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Mr D M Busby – Chairman

Mr S R Barrett	Mr D G Grutchfield
Mr J R B Cave	Mr R E Kemp
Mr M J Deacon	Mr B Riley

Miss D L Kendall, Mr J M Nunn and Mr C A Roberts were unable to be present.

40 SUBSTITUTES

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 5, a substitute was in attendance as follows:-

Mr M J Deacon (substituting for Mr C A Roberts).

41 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on [15 November 2011](#) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

43 PETITIONS

None received.

44 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

45 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2010/11

The external auditor's (PKF) Annual Audit Letter for 2010/11 (Appendix A to Paper [L130](#)) and the Grant Claim Certification Report for the year ended March 2011 (Paper L131) were submitted for consideration by the Committee.

Ms Zoe Thompson and Mr Richard Bint from PKF were in attendance at the meeting to present the reports and to answer questions from Members.

During the course of the discussion the following were among the points noted:-

- Fees for 2011/12 have reduced by 10% - this news was welcomed by the Committee

- Discussions are currently taking place regarding the Council's Internal Audit team possibly taking over some of the Housing and Council Tax benefit subsidy claim checks

RESOLVED

That the external auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2010/11 (Appendix A to Paper L130) and the Grant Claim Certification Report for the year ended March 2011 (Paper L131) be noted.

46 DRAFT TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012/13

The Director of Finance submitted a report ([Paper L132](#)) outlining the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13, setting out the Annual Investment Strategy for managing surplus funds and the borrowing strategy in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice in the Public Services (2011 edition), including managing the additional Council Housing debt as a result of the Government's self-financing reforms.

Mr Mark Horsfield and Ms Bridget Scheuber from Arlingclose Ltd, the Council's Treasury Advisors were in attendance at the meeting to answer detailed questions from Members.

As a result of Member discussions, it was noted that the appendices to the report would be updated and clarified in a number of places and that a simple summary setting out the key changes compared to last year's policy and strategy would be produced for Strategy Committee.

RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY COMMITTEE

- (1) **That the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice in the Public Services (2011 edition) be adopted.**
- (2) **That the key factors and information affecting treasury management activities set out in Appendix A to Paper L132 be noted.**
- (3) **That, subject to further consideration by Strategy Committee on 9 February of the HRA Business Plan and after publication of the final settlement debt and Housing Subsidy Determination, the following be approved:**
 - (a) **The Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in Appendix B to Paper L132**
 - (b) **The Draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13, including the Annual Investment Strategy and the Policy for Managing the HRA Debt, as set out in Appendix C to Paper L132**
 - (c) **The Draft Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2011/12 to 2014/15 set out in Appendix D to Paper L132.**

47 2012/13 BUDGET SCRUTINY

The Director of Finance reported that the latest General Fund Budget proposals and recommendations on the 2012/13 Budget proposals, based on Paper [L123](#) which was considered by Strategy Committee on 12 January 2012, will be presented to the additional Council meeting on 26 January 2012.

RESOLVED

That the latest proposals be noted.

48 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper L133](#)) which provided details of the Committee's anticipated work for the remainder of 2011/12.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan submitted as Paper L133 be noted.

49 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (WHICH TERM INCLUDES THE PRESS)

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified below on the grounds that if the public were present during this item, it is likely that there would be the disclosure to them of exempt information as indicated against the item.

The Committee was also satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

50 RIPA – MONITORING REPORT (Exempt information by virtue of Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of Part 1)

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper L134](#)) providing the Committee with information on applications for authorisation of surveillance activities under RIPA for the past quarter.

The Committee are requested to scrutinise such applications and monitor the Council's activities under RIPA in accordance with the revised Codes of Practice provided by the Home Office.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Note: The meeting adjourned between 11.00 a.m. and 11.20 a.m. for refreshments.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.30 a.m.

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Chairman