

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(STEWARDSHIP) COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL
OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2012

PRESENT: Mr D M Busby – Chairman

Mr S R Barrett	Mr R E Kemp
Mr J R B Cave	Mr F R Lawrenson
Mr D G Grutchfield	Mr C A Roberts

Miss D L Kendall and Mr J M Nunn were unable to be present.

1 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Mr S R Barrett be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Joint Meeting held on 13 December 2011 and the meeting held on 20 March 2012 be confirmed and signed as correct records.

3 PETITIONS

None received.

4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

5 EXTERNAL AUDIT MATTERS

The Head of Corporate Resources submitted Paper M22 asking Members to approve the External Audit Plan for 2011/12 (appended to the report) and consider a response to the Audit Commission's consultation on the appointment of the external auditor for the next 5 year period. The response would normally have been the subject of a recommendation to the Strategy Committee (on 14 June) but to enable the Council to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 25 May, an additional recommendation, 2.3 to Paper M22, was circulated at the meeting, asking for the Committee's response to be submitted under delegated powers. The Chairman of the Strategy Committee was in agreement with 2.3 as circulated (resolution 3 below).

Richard Bint and Zoe Thompson were in attendance at the meeting to present the External Audit Plan and answer Members' questions. They left the meeting prior to the Committee's consideration of the consultation response on the future appointment of auditors.

Note: Councillors Kemp and Lawrenson arrived during consideration of the External Audit Plan and did not vote on recommendation 2.1 of Paper M22 (resolution (1) below).

RESOLVED

- (1) That the External Audit Plan for 2011/12, appended to Paper M22, be noted and approved.**
- (2) That the following response be made to the Audit Commission's consultation on the appointment of the external auditor to the Council for the next 5 years, based on Option 2 in paragraph 8.9 of Paper M22:-**
 - Babergh District Council requests the appointment of one external auditor for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils**
 - The Audit Commission is asked to take into account that Babergh has indicated a preference for its current auditor, PKF, to be appointed for the next 5 year period, but that the key principle is for both Councils to have the same auditor**
- (3) That in view of the deadline of 25 May for responses to the Audit Commission, the Head of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Strategy Committee be asked to submit Babergh District Council's response as referred to in resolution (2) above.**

6 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted Paper M23 which outlined the Audit Manager's opinion on the Council's internal controls and related matters.

The Audit Manager in presenting the report made reference to the key issues, and answered Members' questions. In response to a related matter raised during the discussion, it was agreed that the Audit Manager would seek a view on this matter from the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the outcomes of internal audit work in 2011/12 and the conclusion of the Audit Manager's opinion that the Council's overall internal audit control arrangements provide an acceptable level of assurance, as detailed in Appendix A to Paper M23, be noted.**
- (2) That the position as referred to in resolution (1) above be reflected in the Annual Governance Statement to be submitted to the Committee for approval at its meeting in July 2012.**

7 WORK PLAN FOR 2012/13

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted Paper M24 providing details of the Committee's anticipated work for the year.

RESOLVED

That the Work Plan set out in Paper M24 be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.55 a.m.

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Chairman