

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)
Councillors Brooks, Critchard, Denington, Lees, Meikle, Mrs Smith and Smith

Officers: Ms S Adam (Strategic Director)
Mr C Gunn (Group Auditor, South West Audit Partnership)
Mrs G Croucher (Democratic Services Officer)

Also Present: Councillors Coles and Miss James

23. Apologies/Substitutions

Apologies: Councillor Henley (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Beaven, Govier, Paul and Wedderkopp

Substitutions: Councillor Brooks for Councillor Wedderkopp
Councillor Lees for Councillor Paul
Councillor Meikle for Councillor Beaven
Councillor Smith for Councillor Henley

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2008 were taken as read and were signed.

25. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brooks declared a personal interest as a Member of Somerset County Council, Councillor Mrs Smith declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council and Councillor Coles declared a personal interest as a Director of Southwest One.

26. Changes to the Constitution

Reported that certain amendments to the Articles of the Constitution agreed by the Corporate Governance Committee at the meeting held on 26 June 2008 had been approved by Council on 15 July 2008. There were, however, further changes that had not been agreed by Council and these had been further considered by the Constitutional Sub-Committee.

Members discussed the recommended amendments and agreed changes proposed by the Sub-Committee.

Resolved that Council be recommended to agree the proposed amendments to the Articles of the Constitution.

27. South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) Financial Performance 2007/2008

Considered report previously circulated, giving the Committee an update on the 2007/2008 financial performance of the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP).

The SWAP provided an internal audit service to Taunton Deane Borough Council, Somerset County Council and South Somerset, Mendip and West Somerset District Councils and operated as a joint committee.

This Council had contributed £20,000 towards the start-up fund of £60,000 and it was agreed this would be repaid in four annual instalments. The Partnership had repaid £10,000 and was on track to repay the remaining balance as agreed.

It was reported that the Partnership's financial performance and business plan were robust and the Partnership had made an operating surplus of over £47,000. This would be added to the Partnership reserve.

It was also reported that the Partnership had largely delivered against its performance targets, despite a number of staffing vacancies during the year.

Resolved that the report be noted.

28. Internal Audit Plan 2008/2009 – Progress Review

Considered report previously circulated, which provided an update on the significant finds and recommendations since June 2008.

Details were also reported of the operational audits completed for the period between July and September 2008 which included any significant findings or recommendations.

Members requested that more detailed information should be provided on the completed audits.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.04 p.m.)