

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood (Chair)  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor C Pye  
Councillor Mrs J Bland  
Councillor Mrs P Buckett  
Councillor Mrs G Dodds  
Councillor A Follett  
Councillor Miss L Hillier  
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin  
Councillor Mrs R Myer  
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith  
Councillor I Reissmann  
Councillor Dr P Skolar  
Councillor S Smith

**In attendance:** Mr M W Kennedy – Town Clerk  
Mrs H King – Finance Committee Administrator  
Mrs L Jones – HTC Accountant  
1 member of the press  
1 member of the public

30. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L Pye, C W Gibson and Dr B Wood.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

32. **PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL YEATS, AUDIT AND ENGAGEMENT  
MANAGER FOR THE AUDIT COMMISSION, FOLLOWING THEIR  
AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS FOR 2009-2010**

Mr Yeats explained the reason for his attendance, namely to run through the key points of the Annual Governance Report, copy having been previously issued, and to take any questions from Councillors.

In essence the Audit Commission had put forward opinions on both the Financial Statements and the Value for Money (VFM) report. The audit conclusion on the financial statements was unqualified but there was a qualified conclusion on the VFM report. The qualification had related to the implementation of the new FRSSE reporting system which a number of Town Councils had struggled with (and had also received a similar qualification). This was of no surprise as there was a steep learning curve to be mastered in this first year but it was expected that now all procedures were in place the accounts production should be an easier task next year.

Mr Yeats also drew Members' attention to the sections of the report covering Next Steps and Key Areas of Judgement and Audit Risk.

When asked what would happen to the audit function following the proposal to disband the Audit Commission, Mr Yeats confirmed that it would be business as usual for the next couple of years while transitional arrangements were put in place.

33. **2009-10 ACCOUNTS**

**i) Annual Governance Report and Action Plan.**

The content of the report was noted by Councillors. The Officers had already provided suggested comments to the recommendations outlined in the Action Plan, Appendix 3. Mr Yeats confirmed he had seen the responses and they were considered acceptable. On that basis it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Annual Governance Report and Action Plan be received and approved and that the Officers' responses to the Auditors' recommendations contained in the Action Plan, be adopted.

**ii) 2009-10 Annual Accounts and Letter of Representation.**

There was no further discussion on the Annual Accounts as presented and no questions were felt necessary. It was

**RESOLVED** that 2009-10 Annual Accounts and Letter of Representation be received and approved.

**iii) Thanks**

It was noted by Councillors that an immense amount of work had been undertaken by the HTC Accountant and the Accounts Assistant not only to produce the accounts in the new FRSSE format but to make all the necessary prior year adjustments in the same format. All this had been achieved without the redeployment of external assistance which had produced a saving to the Council of c£5,000. Councillors complimented the HTC Accountant for all the work undertaken and

**RESOLVED** that the Council's thanks and appreciation be recorded to the Officers for the production of the Accounts which had resulted in an unqualified audit.

Additionally, it was recognised that the Value for Money and Resources Working Group also deserved recognition for their work and input in overseeing the control of the Council's finances throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Mayor