

## Minute Extract

Meeting Commenced: 6.00pm  
Meeting Concluded: 7.17pm

### **AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE 11 December 2013**

**Present:** Councillor Roberts (Chair)  
Councillors Ashburner, Campbell, Davis, Harwood, Martin, Troup and Turner

#### **45/13 Protecting the Public Purse 2013**

The committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Resources which was presented by the Head of Governance and Assurance. The committee was provided with a synopsis of the Audit Commission's recent report *Protecting the Public Purse 2013* which described the latest developments in fraud detection and prevention. The committee was furnished with an updated checklist for those charged with governance.

The committee was advised of the Audit Commission's belief that fundamental to the improvement of fraud detection and prevention for local authorities, was the establishment of a robust and accepted counter-fraud culture. It was further reported that councillors had an important role to play in supporting both this ethos and the measures which would underpin it. This was evident in a question posed to local councils through the commission's checklist, namely, "*does a councillor have portfolio responsibility for fighting fraud across the council?*"

The Committee noted that such a responsibility had not been explicitly defined within the Scheme of Delegations, although responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the council's anti-fraud and corruption measures was delegated to the Audit and Accounts Committee. In light of the commission's recommendations, the Head of Governance and Assurance suggested the inclusion of this responsibility within the remit of the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

#### **Resolved to recommend to Council:**

- 1. an amendment to its constitutional appointments, to establish the position of an Anti-Fraud Champion, vested with responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the council's anti-fraud and corruption measures; and**
- 2. subject to the approval of recommendation 1 above, that the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee be appointed as the council's Anti-Fraud Champion.**

Minute End