

Minutes of the meeting held at The People's Hall, Sedbergh on Tuesday, 25 September 2007.

Present:

WH Brown, W Fenten, D Heather, KJ Lancaster, SR Macaré, Dr KM Petyt and Ms N Stedman.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

38/07 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence, at the start of the meeting, of both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee, nominations were sought for a Chairman for the meeting.

Having been nominated unopposed, it was

RESOLVED –

That KJ Lancaster be elected Chairman for the meeting or until the arrival during the meeting of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman.

39/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No notifications of public questions or of the intention to make a statement had been received.

40/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were presented from Mrs S Marshall, A Osborne, Mrs Y Peacock and S Shaw-Wright.

41/07 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

42/07 AUDIT COMMISSION – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2006/07

CONSIDERED – the report of the Senior Finance Officer.

The Auditor stated that the report presented two 'opinions':

- on the Authority's financial statements, and
- on its arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

He confirmed that an unqualified opinion was being issued in respect of both of the above.

In response to a member's enquiry about the 'Value for money' conclusions listed in Appendix 5 of his report, the auditor explained that options for 'conclusions' were either pass or fail. A conclusion of 'Adequate' was the auditor's way of recording a 'pass'.

The Chief Executive reminded members that 2008 would be the last year in which the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) would be produced in its current format. However, whilst some form of performance measurement record would still be required, the final format was still undecided as appropriate indicators were still being reviewed.

RESOLVED –

That

- (a) the contents of the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report be noted; and
- (b) the Treasurer, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Authority be authorised to sign the Letter of Representation (attached as Appendix B of the Annual Governance Report), the signature of the letter being deemed as evidence that Members have had opportunity to comment in accordance with the ISA 260.