

Minutes of Special Accounts & Audit Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 29 July 2010 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J B Hill (Chairman)

Councillors:

D Eccleston
A Knox

M Thompson
N Walsh

In attendance: Director of Resources, Financial Services Manager, Street Scene Manager and Community Development Officer.

201 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Sherras and A Yearing.

202 RETIREMENT OF STREET SCENE MANAGER

The Chairman informed Committee that Graham Jagger the Street Scene Manager had decided to retire after 31 years service with Ribble Valley Borough Council. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Graham for all his hard work for the Council and wished him a happy retirement. Graham responded appropriately.

203 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Chairman referred to Minute 165 of Committee dated 29 June 2010 and to the report from the Director of Resources detailing the five red risk areas identified at the last meeting. The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided explanations from risk owners for their red risks. For each risk a template had been completed which identified the following:

- current identified controls;
- justification why risk is currently red;
- impact on the Council if the risk materialises;
- whether any further controls can be implemented to reduce the risk;
- if nothing can be done, why not? EG: Financial constraints, timing etc.

The Director of Resources informed Members that two of the red risks identified at the last meeting, ie

- land not available to meet employment needs
- Clitheroe town centre masterplan implementation

had now been downgraded from red to amber risk. Committee welcomed this news and then invited both the Community Development Officer and Street Scene Manager to give background information on their red risks.

(a) Community Safety Projects - Loss of funding and possibility of merger.

The Community Development Officer explained the great uncertainty around future funding for community safety partnerships and explained that the potential loss of this funding would impact on staff and projects. He also highlighted the prospect of some kind of merger of community safety partnerships, probably on a police footprint (Blackburn-with-Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley).

Members questioned the Community Development Officer on both red risks and felt that whilst they were real threats they were not necessarily red risks.

RESOLVED: That it was agreed to refer red risks for the community safety partnership on future funding and possible merger to Community Committee for further discussion at their next meeting.

(b) Three Stream Waste Collection / Statutory Legislation not being complied with

The Street Scene Manager gave a detailed explanation of how Ribble Valley Borough Council managed the issue of improvement notices issued by the Health and Safety Executive, the policies and procedures which the Council had implemented in relation to refuse collection and how these were managed on a day to day basis, and the training of refuse staff including agency personnel.

Members then asked a number of questions of the Street Scene Manager including staff turnover, use of agency staff and training of new recruits.

RESOLVED: That this red risk be also referred to Community Committee for further discussion at their next meeting with a recommendation that the training budget be ring fenced should budget savings need to be made for the future.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Jane Pearson (414430).

BA/JS
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