

Item 3

TYNE AND WEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the
TYNE AND WEAR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT JOINT COMMITTEE
held in the Board Room at the Company
Offices of the Tyne and Wear
Development Company Ltd., Investor
House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland
Enterprise Park, Sunderland on
THURSDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2009 at
1.15 p.m.

PART I

Present:-

Councillor P. Watson in the Chair	- Sunderland City Council
Councillor F. Anderson	- Sunderland City Council
Councillor R. Armstrong	- Newcastle City Council
Councillor A. Kerr	- South Tyneside Council
Mayor Arkley	- North Tyneside Council
Councillor L. Goveas	- North Tyneside Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Clare, Henry, Mearns and Wallace.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Kerr declared a personal interest in relation to item 9 (Schedule of Grants and Commitments agreed up to 31st October as a Director) on Tyneside Economic Development Company (TEDCO).

Minutes

14. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Committee held on 25th June, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Membership of the Joint Committee 2009/10

The Secretary to the Joint Committee submitted a report advising of changes to membership from Newcastle City Council.

It was:-

15. RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor Armstrong in place, of Councillor Shipley for the remainder of 2009/10 be noted.

Internal Audit Annual Report 2008/2009

The Treasurer to the Committee submitted a report (circulated) to provide details of the Performance of Internal Audit Services (IAS) during the year and to give an overall opinion of the soundness of the internal control environment in place to minimise risk to the Tyne and Wear Economic Joint Committee and the Development Company.

Tracy Davis (Audit and Counter Fraud Manager – Sunderland City Council) was in attendance to present this report to the Committee. In doing so, she explained that two audits had been conducted. The first on the allocation of funding and the second on business continuity planning for the Tyne and Wear Development Company. In addition to this, an unplanned audit was carried out in relation to the governance arrangements. This was required to complete an element of the 'small bodies annual return' and is to be undertaken annually in the future. Audit work was also undertaken on the Lead Authority's key financial systems (e.g. payroll).

Of the recommendations which were made, none were high risk, none were significant risk, 29 were medium risk and none were low risk.

Follow up audits were to be conducted to ensure that the agreed recommendations were implemented within the agreed timeframes.

The report concluded that overall there was a sound internal control environment in place.

It was:-

16. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit

The Treasurer to the Committee submitted a report (circulated) setting out the findings of the annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended 2006).

Tracy Davis advised the Committee that the self-assessment concluded that the internal audit arrangements in place complied with the Code in full.

The Audit Commission had reviewed the effectiveness of internal audit and concluded that:-

“There continued to be robust arrangements in place to comply with the Code’s standards. The detailed review of files did not highlight any significant non-compliance with IAS’s Quality System or the Code.”

It was:-

17. RESOLVED that the findings of the self-assessment and external review undertaken by the Audit Commission be noted.

Audited Statement of Accounts 2008/2009

The Treasurer to the Committee submitted a report (circulated) to report the communication received from the External Auditor concerning financial statements for 2008/2009 and providing the Audited Statement of Accounts for 2008/2009 for approval.

The Treasurer advised Members that the Auditor’s communication was appended to the report (Appendix One). In summary, it concluded that:-

- The External Auditor had issued an unqualified audit opinion.
- There were no changes required to the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return.
- There were no misstatements identified in the Statement of Accounts.
- The External Auditor had not identified any issues in relation to the qualitative aspects of the Joint Committees accounting practices and financial reporting.
- The External Auditor had not identified any other matter required by other auditing standards that should be communicated to Members, and
- The External Auditor did not identify any other matter that should be brought to the attention of Members.

It was:-

18. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the unqualified audit report for 2008/2009 by the External Auditor be noted, and

- (ii) the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2009 be approved.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

19. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it involved a likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons (including the Authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3).

(Signed) P. WATSON,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to business during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items of business are included in Part II.