

Monday 26 June 2006
at 6pm



Annual Accounts Committee

MEMBERSHIP:-

Deleted: 1

Councillor WILLIAMS (Chairman) Councillor MARSDEN (Deputy Chairman), Councillors Mrs GOODALL, STANLEY and TESTER (as substitute for Slater).

(An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Slater)

1 **Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Tester declared a personal interest as a Board Member of Eastbourne Buses and remained in the room but did not take part in discussions relating to Eastbourne Buses.

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2 **Approval of Annual Accounts for 2005/06.**

The Committee were advised that the Council was still awaiting the final accounts from Eastbourne Buses in order to consolidate with the group accounts and in turn enable officers to present the final accounts to members for approval. The Committee agreed to defer the discussion on this item until the meeting on Wednesday 28 June 2006

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NOTED.

3 Audit and Inspection Plan 2006/07.

The Committee considered the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Plan for Eastbourne Borough Council for the audit year 2006/2007. The Director of Financial Services advised the Committee that each year the Audit Commission prepares an individual annual audit and inspection plan for every local authority. It then presents its plan to the Council through 'those charged with corporate governance'.

For Eastbourne Borough Council presentation of the annual plan had previously been made to Council through Cabinet. However, this year marked a change as the presentation would be made to this Committee at its inaugural meeting on 26 June 2006. This new Committee had been established by Council with the specific duty, delegated power and responsibility to approve the annual accounts. As a consequence, it had taken on the role of 'those charged with corporate governance'.

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The Audit Commission's 2006/2007 plan for Eastbourne was attached to the report. In addition to those items traditionally covered within the plan, it included a commentary on the new use of resources judgement. This was particularly important as the use of resources judgement forms a key part of the Audit Commission's assessment in reaching a value for money conclusion for the Council.

A representative from the Audit Commission, Simon Mathers the Audit Manager, presented the Plan and was available to take Member questions.

Mr Mathers advised the Committee that there were two main changes to the Plan this year; the International Audit Standards (IAS) and the Value for Money Statement based on the corporate priorities and Performance Indicator outcomes. Members discussed the increase in fees which were largely due to the IAS being more onerous increasing the workload for the Auditors.

The Director of Financial Services informed the Committee that improvements were being made in financial management which would develop with the continued close working between the S151 Officer and the Audit Commission.

The Committee thanked Mr Mathers for attending.

NOTED.

4 Additional meeting – 25 September 2006.

Members were advised that there would be an additional meeting of the Annual Accounts Committee on 25 September 2006 to discuss the External Auditors report.

NOTED.

The meeting finished at 6.31 p.m.

**Councillor Williams
Chairman**

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