

Broads Authority

Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2014

Present:

Mr G McGregor – Chairman

Mr D Broad

Mr P Durrant

Prof J A Burgess

Dr J S Johnson

In Attendance:

Miss E Guds – Administrative Officer

Mr J W Organ – Head of Governance and Executive Assistant

Dr J Packman – Chief Executive

1/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Nigel Dixon.

1/2 Appointment of Chairman

The Chief Executive invited nominations for the position of Chairman for the forthcoming year.

It was proposed and duly seconded that Mr McGregor be appointed as Chairman.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED

that Mr McGregor be appointed as Chairman of the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee for the forthcoming year.

Mr Guy McGregor (in the Chair)

1/3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

It was proposed and duly seconded that Mr Dixon be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED

that Mr Dixon be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee for the forthcoming year.

1/4 Matters of Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business.

1/5 Declarations of Interests

Members expressed declarations of interests as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

1/6 Public Question Time

No questions were raised by members of the public.

1/7 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the item below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act as amended, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public benefit in disclosing the information.

1/8 Strategic Response to National Park Grant Reduction – Update on Minor Organisational Restructure

Members were provided with an update on the organisational restructures required to deliver the proposals adopted by the Authority on 21 March 2014 as part of the Authority's strategic response to National Park Grant reductions. Details were provided about the potential costs of redundancy in relation to the reorganisation of the Communications, Governance and HR Teams, and the Committee's approval for these costs was sought.

The maximum potential cost of redundancy in this regard was calculated at £45k, although it was anticipated that the actual costs would be lower through the appointment of some of the at risk staff to alternative roles.

The Committee was asked to approve a maximum potential redundancy cost of £45k and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve redundancy payments up to this level should this be required.

It was noted that the salaries for the affected staff were currently apportioned between National Park and Navigation expenditure and that both of these

areas would benefit from the savings of the restructure. Members considered a proposal that the cost of any redundancies should be apportioned on the same basis as the current posts.

The proposal to recruit the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer in advance of 1 April 2015 was discussed. This would enable the post holder to assimilate their legal responsibilities and allow the anticipated legal savings to be realised as early as possible. It was reported that some potential candidates had already shown an interest in the role.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the maximum potential redundancy cost of £45,000 be approved, and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve redundancy payments up to this level should they be required.
- (ii) That the intention to recruit the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer as soon as possible to allow legal savings to be realised in advance of 1 April 2015 be noted.
- (iii) That the Committee recommend to the Authority that the costs of the redundancy be apportioned between National Park and Navigation expenditure on the same basis as the present costs of the posts;

1/9 Other Items of Business

There were no further items of business which the Chairman decided should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act

1/10 Formal Questions

There were no formal questions of which due notice had been given.

1/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 23 September 2014 at Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, commencing at 2.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 am

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1

Declaration of Interests

Committee: Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 24 July 2014

Name Please Print	Agenda/ Minute No(s)	Nature of Interest (Please describe the nature of the interest)	Please tick here if the interest is a Pecuniary Interest ✓
G McGregor		None (Member of SCC)	
P Durrant		None	
J A Burgess		None	
D Broad		As per register	