

# Audit Committee

## Minutes AC(2) 02-06

**Meeting date: 16 February 2006**

**Meeting time: 1:30pm – 4:00pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

| <b>Assembly Member</b> | <b>Constituency</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Janet Davies (Chair)   | South Wales West    |
| Leighton Andrews       | Rhondda             |
| Mick Bates             | Montgomeryshire     |
| Jocelyn Davies         | South Wales East    |
| Mark Isherwood         | North Wales         |
| Irene James            | Islwyn              |
| Denise Idris Jones     | Conwy               |
| Carl Sargeant          | Alyn & Deeside      |

### Officials in Attendance

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Jeremy Colman  | The Auditor General |
| Paul Dimblebee | Wales Audit Office  |
| Martin Peters  | Wales Audit Office  |
| Gillian Body   | Wales Audit Office  |
| James Verity   | Wales Audit Office  |

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Geraint Morgan | Wales Audit Office          |
| David Powell   | Assembly Compliance Officer |

## Witnesses

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Richard Davies | Director, Department for Training and Education |
| Keith Davies   | Department for Training and Education           |

## Committee Service

| Name            | Job title              |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Kathryn Jenkins | Committee Clerk        |
| Liz Wilkinson   | Deputy Committee Clerk |

## Item 1: Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interests

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Alun Cairns and Catherine Thomas.

1.3 In respect of item 2, Irene James and Carl Sargeant declared an interest as school governors. In addition, Jocelyn Davies declared an interest as her daughter was a pupil at Newbridge Comprehensive School, which was referred to in the Wales Audit Office report.

## Item 2: Administration of Grants for Education Support and Training (GEST) and the Better Schools Fund Paper: AC(2) 02-06(p1)

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Richard Davies, Director, Department for Training and Education and Keith Davies, Standards and Performance Division, Department for Training and Education.

## Action point

Richard Davies agreed to provide a note of clarification to the Committee on whether the Welsh Assembly Government's 1998 internal audit report had addressed the issue of guidance to policy leads

regarding the assessment of LEA spending plans.

**Item 3: Programme of value for money examinations**

**Paper: AC(2) 02-06(p2)**

3.1 The Auditor General briefly outlined his programme of value for money examinations for 2006-07.

3.2 The Committee noted the final programme.

**Item 4: Update on Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee report Environment Agency Wales: Regulation of Waste Management**

**Paper: AC(2) 02-06(p3)**

4.1 The Auditor General suggested ways in which the Committee may pursue further the issue of arrangements for identifying potential sites for waste management facilities.

**Action point**

The Chair agreed to write to the Chair of Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee to ask that the Committee follow up the issue of arrangements for identifying potential sites for waste management facilities in the context of its report Inquiry into Meeting Landfill and Recycling Targets.

**Item 5: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee report, The General Report of the Auditor General for Wales**

**Paper: AC(2) 02-06(p4) and AC(2) 02-06(p5)**

5.1 The Committee noted the Welsh Assembly Government's response and the Auditor General's advice.

**Item 6: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee report, The Finances of NHS Wales 2006**

**Paper: AC(2) 02-06(p6) and AC(2) 02-06(p7)**

6.1 The Committee noted the Welsh Assembly Government's response and the Auditor General's advice.

**Item 7: Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Paper: AC(2) 01-06(mins)**

7.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its 12 January 2006 meeting.

The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 8.24 (vi)

## **PRIVATE SESSION**

### **Item 8: Draft Committee reports**

**Paper: AC(2) 02-06(p8) and AC(2) 02-06(p9)**

8.1 Subject to an addition to the draft report Contract for the provision of the out-of-hours GP service in Cardiff, the Committee agreed both reports.

**Committee Service**

**February 2006**