

AGENDA ITEM 3

Minutes of the meeting of the Accounts
Commission held in the Balbirnie House
Hotel, Markinch on Thursday,
12 February 2009, at 11am

PRESENT: J Baillie (Chair)
M Ash
M Docherty
A Faulds
A Kelbie
J King
I Low
W McQueen
I Robertson
D Sinclair

IN ATTENDANCE: C Gardner, Deputy Auditor General and Controller of Audit
D Pia, Director of Public Reporting (Local Government)
C Coull, Secretary
A Clark, Assistant Director, Public Reporting
F McKinlay, Assistant Director (Best Value), Public Reporting (items 5-8)
L McGiffen, Portfolio Manager (Best Value), Public Reporting (item 5)
N Bennett, Scott-Moncrieff (item 5)

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	Apologies for Absence
2.	Minutes
3.	Chair's Introduction
4.	Report by the Controller of Audit
5.	Fife Council - Audit of Best Value and Community Planning
6.	Best Value audits progress update
7.	Update on Best Value 2 progress
8.	Best Value across the public sector

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Owen Clarke.

2. Minutes

The minutes of meeting of 21 January 2009 were submitted and approved.

3. Chair's Introduction

The Chair reported that:-

- The process for the appointment of new members to the Commission was now underway and it was hoped that interviews would be held in late June
- The next meeting with scrutiny bodies had been arranged for 12 March
- Work was in hand to prepare for publication of the Local Government Overview Report
- Arrangements had been made for himself and Caroline Gardner to visit the Audit Commission and meetings had been arranged with SOLACE and CoSLA.

The position was noted

4. Report by the Controller of Audit

There was submitted a report by the Controller of Audit providing an update on the following matters:-

- Single Outcome Agreements
- Public Service Reform Bill
- HMICS Independent Review of Policing in Scotland
- Parliamentary Public Audit Committee
- Audit Commission reports

The position was noted.

5. Fife Council – Audit of Best Value and Community Planning

Douglas Sinclair declared an interest in this item as a former Chief Executive of Fife Council. He left the room and took no part in its consideration.

There was submitted and noted a report by the Secretary introducing the Controller of Audit's report of the best value audit of Fife Council. The report was made by the Controller of Audit under Section 102 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The Controller of Audit and members of the best value audit team answered questions by members of the Commission.

Thereafter the Commission agreed to make findings as contained in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

6. Best Value Audits – progress update

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Public Reporting (Local Government) updating the Commission on progress with regard to the first round of Best Value audits.

7. Update on Best Value 2 progress

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Public Reporting (Local Government) updating the Commission on progress of the Best Value 2 programme plan.

8. Best Value across the public sector

There was submitted a report by the Controller of Audit detailing the responsibilities currently placed on public sector bodies in respect of best value.

The Commission agreed to note the report and that a further report would be submitted in due course on how best value could be audited across all public sector bodies and how that could contribute to assessing the performance of partnerships.