



Report

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| Report number/reference: RMB/LB | Date issued: 17th July 2008 |
| Agenda Item: 8 | Date of Meeting: 24th July 2008 |
| This report is: For information and approval | Meeting Venue: SMBC, Sandwell |
| Report Status: External Auditors appointment: 2007/08 Audit | |

Report Title:

Appointment of External Auditors; 2007/08 Audit

Report Author:

Lynda Bateman
WMRMB Treasurer

Circulated to:

- WMRMB
- Treasurers to Fire & Rescue Authorities

Please forward to:

Summary:

The Audit Commission has appointed Clement Keys as external auditors to WMRMB for the period 2007/08. A short form Annual Return has been completed and the audit finalised.

Recommendation(s):

WMRMB are requested to:

- i) Note the appointment of Clement Keys, and
- ii) Approve completed 2007/08 Short Form Annual Return

For further information, please contact:

Lynda Bateman
WMRMB Treasurer
(Sandwell MBC)



0121 569 3502



0121 569 3515



Lynda_bateman@sandwell.gov.uk

1. Background Details:

Since the establishment of the WMRMB in 2004, your Treasurer has had ongoing discussions with the Audit Commission as to the need for and nature of any external audit required by statute of WMRMB's activities.

Given the unique nature of WMRMB's financial arrangements – i.e. it has no independent budget; spend; bank accounts etc. and is funded solely by balanced contribution for each FRA, the preparation of a normal set of accounts has no relevance.

The Audit Commission has now concluded that our WMRMB falls under regulations covering "small bodies with no financial transactions" and as such, whilst we require external auditors to be appointed, this will involve "light touch" audit with no fee.

The Treasurer was recently notified that for the financial years 2007/08 to 2010/11, Clement Keys, Birmingham have been appointed as our external auditors. Agreement has now been reached with Clement Keys that the completion of a "Short Form Annual Return" together with formal public advertisement of that, satisfies the statutory audit needs and no further work will be required. A copy of the Return is appended to this report for Members information, together with the advert that will be placed in the Birmingham Post following this meeting.

Similar returns have now been made to the Audit Commission in respect of past years 2005/06 and 2006/07.

2. Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

3. Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Background Papers:

- Correspondence with Audit Commission
- Letter from Clement Keys – June 2008
- 2007/08 Short Form Annual Return

5. Attachments:

The following document is appended:

- Appendix A - Copy of 2007/08 Short Form Annual Return
 - Appendix B - Advert for publication
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Appendix A

**SHORT FORM ANNUAL RETURN FOR SMALL BODIES WITH NO FINANCIAL
TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

This body had no financial transactions during the above financial year. The balance in hand is

£ Nil

Please complete and return to:

A T Robertson
Clement Keys
39/40 Calthorpe Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 1TS

Signed: S Roberts (Clerk or
~~Chairman~~)

Date 20/6/08

Telephone Clerk Chairman
Daytime: SUSAN PHILLIPS
Evening:

0121 569 3195

PUBLIC / LEGAL NOTICES

**West Midlands Regional Management Board
Audit of Accounts 2007/2008**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Sections 14-16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003:

- (1) On application to the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3BS any persons interested may inspect and make copies of the Short Form Annual Return for small bodies with no financial transactions for the year ended 31 March 2008 relating to the West Midlands Regional Management Board for 20 working days from 9 August 2008.
- (2) Any Local Government elector for the area to which the accounts relate, or a representative may make objection to the returns as referred to in paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of Section 16 of the Audit Commission Act, 1998.
- (3) No objection may be made under paragraph (2) above by or on behalf of a Local Government elector unless the Auditor has previously received written notice of the proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made.
- (4) Correspondence to the Auditor should be addressed to: Mr A Robertson, Clement Keys, 39/40 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1TS.
- (5) The auditors have confirmed that no further audit work will be required for the WMRMB for 2007/08.
- (6) Further information on the activities of WMRMB together with the 2007/08 annual report can be found on the internet: www.wmrmmb.co.uk

Sue Phelps
Clerk – WMRMB
Sandwell Council House,
Freeth Street, Oldbury,
West Midlands.

Lynda Bateman
Treasurer - WMRMB
Sandwell Council House,
Freeth Street, Oldbury,
West Midlands.