Vice-Chair Councillor A. Samson called the meeting to order.

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGETS COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Grant Thornton, External Auditors presenting the 2005 External Audit Plan Communication (Item 7.1)

That the 2005 External Audit Plan Communication as presented by Grant Thornton, External Auditors, be received.
2. 2005 External Audit Plan and Fees (FCS06014) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(a) That Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants be appointed as External Auditors for the City of Hamilton for the final year of their five year term;

(b) That the 2005 Audit Fees in the amount of $172,550 plus applicable taxes be approved.

3. Follow up of Audit Report 2003-04 – Property Taxation (CM05037) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

That Report CM05037 respecting the follow up of Audit Report 2003-04, Property Taxation, be received.

4. Audit Report 2005-08 – Social Housing Funding Streams (CM05039) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)

That Report CM05039 respecting Audit Report 2005-08, Social Housing Funding Streams, be received.

5. Audit Report 2005-09 – Procurement Card Review (CM05040) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)


FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the December 14, 2005 meeting were adopted as presented.

Council – February 15, 2006
(d) Election of Vice-Chair

In the absence of the Mayor, the Clerk conducted the election of Vice-Chair by calling for nominations.

Councillor Samson was nominated for Vice-Chair by Councillors Jackson and Pearson.

There being no other nominations, nominations were closed.

Councillor Samson was elected as Vice-Chair and assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting in the absence of the Mayor.

(e) PRESENTATIONS

(i) Grant Thornton, External Auditors presenting the 2005 External Audit Plan Communication (Item 7.1)

Evan McDade and Melanie Dugard, Grant Thornton, appeared before Committee and presented an overview of the Audit Plan. Included in the presentation were details of the following:
- Financial Reporting Responsibilities
- General Approach to the Audit
- Specific Audit Plan
- Audit Team and Timing
- Auditors' Independence
- Auditor's responsibility to consider fraud and error

(ii) 2005 External Audit Plan and Fees (FCS06014) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

Joe Rinaldo, General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services provided an overview of the following with respect to the 2005 External Audit Plans and Fees:
- City of Hamilton Financial Reports
- Municipal Financial Reporting Requirements
- Financial Reporting – Specific Issues
- Proposed Future Changes to Municipal Financial Reporting Requirements

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Samson
Vice-Chair