



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th APRIL 2023

PRESENT: Councillor P Turner (Chair), Councillors A Cooper (Vice-Chair), S Daniels and P Thompson

Officers Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Joanne Goodfellow (Assistant Director Finance), Andrew Wood (Audit Manager), Jo Hutchison (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Leanne Costello (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Jones.

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

73 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor S Daniels)

74 REVIEW OF THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STATEMENT 2023/24 AND THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2022/23

Report of the Executive Director Finance to review the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Annual Investment Statement 2023/24 and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2022/23 approved by Council on 28th February 2023 and 13th December 2022 respectively and to endorse the CIPFA Effective Scrutiny of Treasury Management self assessment review.

The Executive Director, Finance reported that the most recent external treasury management training for all councillors was held in February 2023, and this was held annually. In addition training on specific topics was also held as required.

The Committee thanked Officers for the Report.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

1. considered the Treasury Management Reports, as detailed within the reports attached at Appendix A and Appendix B highlighting any changes for recommendation to Cabinet; and
2. endorsed the CIPFA Effective Scrutiny of Treasury Management self assessment at Appendix C, highlighting any further training requirements to inform the 2023/24 training plan.

(Moved by Councillor P Turner and seconded by Councillor A Cooper)

75 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF FINANCIAL GUIDANCE

Report of the Assistant Director, Finance for the Audit & Governance Committee to endorse the proposed amendments to Financial Guidance.

The Assistant Director highlighted the proposed key changes which included changes in job titles, changes to the procurement section and requirements to advertise contract opportunities on the Council's In-Tend system.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

endorsed the proposed amendments to the Council's Financial Guidance, to take immediate effect.

(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

76 PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS/QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Report of the Audit Manager to report to the Audit & Governance Committee on Internal Audit's compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP).

The Audit Manager highlighted that the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme 2023/24 had been updated with the results of the recent external quality assessment. The Audit Manager reported that External Quality Action

Plan would be reported quarterly to this Committee and that 5 out of the 12 actions had been completed, and of the 6 enhancements to service, 2 had been completed. The priority of the external quality assessment actions were rated review and consider and the Audit Manager reported that the outstanding recommendations would be prioritised for future meetings.

The Committee recorded their thanks to the Audit Manager for his work in moving this work forward.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

1. Endorsed the Internal Audit's assessment of compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards;
2. Endorsed the Quality Assurance Improvement Programme; and
3. Endorsed the External Quality Assessment Action Plan

(Moved by Councillor S Daniels and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

77 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report of the Audit Manager to present the proposed Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2022/23 for Council.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

Endorsed the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2022/23.

(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

78 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

The Committee reviewed the timetable and agreed to ensure the scheduling of the items for the next meetings dates was balanced and distributed appropriately.

Chair