



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th MARCH 2024

PRESENT: Councillor D Maycock (Chair), Councillors B Clarke, S Daniels, S Doyle, B Price (Vice-Chair), R Pritchard and P Thurgood

Officers Andrew Wood (Audit Manager), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

Visitors Bethany Hincks, Azets, External Auditors

58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

59 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor P Thurgood)

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

61 UPDATE FROM EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The external auditor from Azets gave a verbal update on interim work carried out. A formal update paper will be presented at the next Audit & Governance committee

There has been two weeks of interim work on site and the Auditor thanked Jo Goodfellow and team for the help with the planned work that was achieved.

Updates

- Started process of Housing Benefit work
- Introductions made with the Council's Valuers
- Work started with regards to Value for Money (VFM)

62 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND CHARTER 2024/25

Report of the Audit Manager for the Audit & Governance Committee to comment on and endorse the 2024/25 proposed internal audit plan (Appendix 1), audit charter (Appendix 2) and note the updated Global Internal Audit Standards (Appendix 3 & Appendix 4).

Resolved that the Committee

1. endorsed the 2024/25 proposed draft internal audit plan (Appendix 1) and audit charter (Appendix 2)
2. Noted the updated Global Internal Audit Standards for implementation by January 2025 (Appendix 3) and the effects on Public Sector organisations (Appendix 4)

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor P Thurgood)

63 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2023/24 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ACTION PLAN

Report of the Assistant Director Finance provided an outline of the corporate requirements that will need to be achieved in order to produce the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 (including deadlines but not including detailed responsibilities) and to obtain corporate commitment to the action plan.

Resolved that the committee approved:

1. the proposed Accounting Policies for 2023/24, attached as Appendix A
2. should any changes to the accounting policies be required as a result of the recently announced CIPFA/LASAAC consultation, authority was delegated to the Executive Director Finance in consultation with the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee to amend these as required;
3. the target of 31st May 2024 for closure of the final accounts and production of the statement for 2023/24
4. staffing resources be committed to the provision of appropriate information and support in order to meet the published

timescales and the Committee receive progress updates (if required);

5. CMT receive a fortnightly update until completion of the audit
6. the Statement be presented to the Audit & Governance Committee before the end of September 2024.

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

64 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

The Committee reviewed the timetable and there were no changes

Chair