



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Summers (Chair), Councillors M Bailey (Vice-Chair), C Cooke, J Faulkner, S Pritchard and R Rogers

**Officers** Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Lynne Pugh (Assistant Director Finance), Rebecca Neill (Head of Audit & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager), Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant) and Adam Deakin (Technical Infrastructure Engineer)

**Visitors** Mark Stocks (Grant Thornton)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) M Oates

### **72 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor R Rogers and seconded by Councillor S Pritchard)*

### **73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of Interest.

### **74 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER - 2019-2020**

The Annual Audit Letter 2019/20 of Grant Thornton (External Auditor) was presented to Committee by Mark Stocks of Grant Thornton. Following questions from members seeking assurances on journal controls and a debate on the level of fee increase, the Committee thanked the external auditors and finance teams for delivering the annual audit.

**RESOLVED:** That Members;

Endorsed the Annual Audit Letter for Tamworth  
Borough Council.

*(Moved by Councillor J Faulkner and seconded by  
Councillor M Summers)*

## **75 RISK MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE**

The Assistant Director Finance reported on the Risk Management process and progress to date for the current financial year. Members queried the score and mitigation on the lack of economic investment in people and places risk in light of the Council's successful bid for Future High Street Funding. It was agreed that this would be referred to the risk owner for review

**RESOLVED** That Members,

Endorsed the Corporate Risk Register

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor C Cooke)*

## **76 MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2019/20**

The Assistant Director Partnerships updated Members on the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2019/20. Following questions the Committee unanimously supported the statement.

**RESOLVED** That Committee

- 1 Endorsed the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for approval by Cabinet
- 2 Approved an agenda item to be included in the Audit and Governance plan annually for update to the Statement each July (or the latest meeting in Quarter 2).

*(Moved by Councillor C Cooke and seconded by Councillor M Summers)*

## **77 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 3**

The Head of Audit and Governance & the Monitoring Officer provided Committee with the internal audit's progress report for the period to 31 December 2020 (Quarter 3).

**RESOLVED** The Committee;

Noted the attached report.

*(Moved by Councillor J Faulkner and seconded by Councillor C Cooke)*

## **78 COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS**

The Audit and Governance Committee undertook the annual self-assessment of Audit & Governance Committee effectiveness. Following a discussion regarding the independent member/s appointment, the Committee agreed the self-assessment.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee considered the attached self-assessment checklist and endorsed any actions to improve its effectiveness as appropriate

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor J Faulkner)*

## **79 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TIMETABLE**

The Committee reviewed the timetable.

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Chair