



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Summers (Chair), Councillors R Ford (Vice-Chair), M J Greatorex, Dr S Peale and P Thurgood

**Officers** Lynne Pugh (Assistant Director Finance), Zoe Wolicki (Assistant Director People), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Andrew Wood (Audit Manager) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

**Visitors** William Guest (Grant Thornton) and Mark Stocks (Grant Thornton)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) J Chesworth and A Cooper

### **23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th July 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peale and seconded by Councillor P Thurgood)*

### **24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of Interest.

### **25 REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020/21**

The Assistant Director, Finance presented the Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2020/21 prior to Council on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

Members were asked to consider the report and highlight any proposed changes for recommendation to Cabinet. Following questions no changes were proposed

Committee Thanked staff for their excellent performance.

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor R Ford)*

**26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2020/21**

The Assistant Director, People advised the committee of the contents of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Report Letter for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 in relation to complaints against Tamworth Borough Council

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee;

1. Endorsed the content of the Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter
2. Noted the summary of complaints, enquiries and decisions made during 2020/ 21

*(Moved by Councillor M Greatorex and seconded by Councillor P Thurgood)*

**27 MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2020/21**

The Assistant Director Partnerships updated Members on the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020/21.

**RESOLVED**

That Committee

Endorsed the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020/21 for approval by Cabinet

*(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peuple and seconded by Councillor M Summers)*

**28 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TIMETABLE**

The Committee reviewed and noted the timetable and the Chair also reminded members of the training session on the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**29 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER 2020/21**

The Assistant Director, Finance summarised the management representation letter highlighting the salient points within the letter.

**RESOLVED** That the Committee;

Approved authorisation for the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee and the Executive Director, Finance to sign off the management representation letter.

*(Moved by Councillor R Ford and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peuple)*

**30 FEE INCREASE LETTER**

The Fee increase Letter of Grant Thornton (External Auditor) was considered

**RESOLVED:** That Members endorsed the Fee increase Letter.

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)*

**31 AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2020/21**

Will Guest from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, summarised the Audit findings report.

**RESOLVED** That the Committee;

Endorsed the Audit Findings Report 2020/21.

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)*

**32 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)*

**33 AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2020/21**

Mark Stocks, From Grant Thornton, joined the meeting and presented the exempt part of the Audit Findings Report to Committee. Following discussion it was agreed that this item would be discussed further at the next Audit and Governance meeting following the obtaining of legal advice on these matters.

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Chair

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