

MINUTES OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee: Mr P Dudfield (Chairman), Councillors Miss Lawrence, Pacey-Day and Roodhouse

Officers: Chris Green (Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager), Chris Blundell (Financial Services Manager) and Veronika Beckova (Democratic Services Officer)

In attendance: Grant Patterson (Director – Grant Thornton) and Paul Harvey (Assistant Manager – Grant Thornton)

32. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 27 November 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

33. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr J Eves (Vice Chairman) and Councillor Mistry.

34. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19 – 2020/21

The committee considered the report presented by the Financial Services Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 4).

The report was discussed in detail at the meeting and the following additional comments were made:

- The committee was advised that the format of report will change at future meetings. CIPFA's new Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities will come into effect from April 2018.
- The committee requested that any future reports include explanatory notes for better understanding of the reports.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the monitoring and the review of the Treasury Management indicators be agreed;
- (3) the committee to receive training in order to sufficiently monitor and review Treasury Management; and
- (4) the committee to receive an update on the progress of the implementation of CIPFA's new Prudential Code.

35. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The committee considered the report presented by the Financial Services Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 5).

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the change in delegation be noted; and
- (2) the committee to receive training on the content and approval of the Council's accounts in order to meet the committees additional responsibilities.

36. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT PROGRESS UPDATE

The committee considered the report presented by the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 6).

The committee was informed that the action plan is anticipated to be completed by July 2018 when the performance data for quarter 1 will be published.

RESOLVED THAT – the progress towards implementation of the Annual Governance Statement action plan be noted.

37. 2017/18 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

The committee considered the report presented by the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 7).

The committee was informed that the Strategic Risk Register will be submitted for consideration on 27 March 2018 and that a Corporate Risk Register will be developed over the coming months and will be submitted to committee for consideration at a future meeting.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

38. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2018/19

The committee considered the report presented by the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 8).

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the process to developing the internal audit plan for 2018/19 be approved; and
- (2) the committee to consider areas in which assurance is required from Internal Audit during 2018/19 and submit them to the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager via email.

39. DRAFT EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

The committee considered the report presented by the Grant Thornton (Part 1 – Agenda Item 9).

RESOLVED THAT – the Draft External Audit Plan and proposed fee for 2017/18 be approved.

40. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT – under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

41. WHISTLE BLOWING INCIDENTS – STANDING ITEM – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

There were no issues to report.

42. FRAUD AND CORRUPTION ISSUES – STANDING ITEM – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES

There were no issues to report.

The Committee was informed that a training session for councillors on the new Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy is scheduled for 24 April 2018 prior to Full Council.

CHAIRMAN