

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2014

Present: Michael Bonner (Independent Chair)

Councillors: Peter Connolly; Joan Hully; David Riley; Graham Sunderland

An apology for absence was received from Councillor: John Bowman; Douglas Wilson

Councillor Gillian Troughton also attended the meeting.

Officers: Angela George Interim Financial Services Manager; Anne Treble, Project Accountant; Peter Usher, Audit Manager; Tim Capper Democratic Services Manager; Lindsay Tomlinson Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer; Denise James, Member Services Officer.

Julie Betteridge Head of Customer and Community Services Agenda Items 1 – 9

Paul Walker Chief Executive – Agenda item 12

Richard McGahon Grant Thornton UK

AU 53 Minutes

RESOLVED –the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AU 54 Arising form the Minutes

Arising form Minutes AU 44 & 46 it was noted that there had been an amendment to the indicative fee for the Council for 2011/12 from £23,000 to £20,328 to reflect the fact that the certification of Council tax benefit is no longer required as part of the Housing benefit Subsidy Scheme.

AU 55 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Joan Hully declared a non disclosable pecuniary Interest in issues relating to Housing Benefit due to being in receipt.

AU 55 Governance Update

A verbal update on the current position on cases heard under the arrangements for determination of breaches of the Code of Conduct was received and noted.

AU 56 Treasury Management Outturn 2013/14

The treasury management outturn report which had been considered by the Executive and summarises the Executive's recommendations to Council who met on 19 June 2014 was scrutinised by the Audit and Governance Committee .

RESOLVED – That the actual 2013/14 prudential and treasury indicators in paragraph 4.3 of the report be approved.

AU 57 Statement of Accounts 2013/14

Members received a verbal update on the current position with the Statement of Accounts 2013/14. It was noted that the accounts were on target and there were no issues of concern.

AU 58 Internal Audit Report 2013/14

Consideration was given to the Internal Audit report for 2013/14.

RESOLVED – That the report and actions agreed with management to implement the audit report recommendation be noted.

AU 59 Internal Audit Annual Report

Consideration was given to a report providing a summary of the outcomes of the work of Internal Audit for 2013/14 and includes the Head of Internal Audit's opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for risk management, governance and internal control in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

RESOLVED – That a) the progress achieved in 2013/14 in delivering the audit plan and the outcomes of completed audit reviews set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;

b) the Head of Internal Audit's opinion of reasonable assurance on the Council's overall systems of governance, risk management and internal control for the year ended 31st March 2014 be noted;

c) the Head of Internal Audit's declaration of conformance with the mandatory Public Sector Internal Audit Standards be noted;

d) the Head of Internal Audit's declaration of Internal Audit independence as required by the PSIAS be noted; and

e) the outcomes of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (Appendix 2 of the report) be noted.

AU 60 Internal Audit – Review of Effectiveness

Consideration was given to the annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit arrangements and outcomes for consideration as part of the system of internal control.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

AU 61 Annual Governance Statement

Consideration was given to the Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 and action plan prior to its inclusion with the annual statement of accounts.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Governance Statement and action plan be noted and approved.

AU 62 Effectiveness of Audit Committee

Consideration was given to a report providing a review of the work of the Audit and Governance Committee against the core functions of an audit committee as defined within the CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees 2013.

RESOLVED – That the report be agreed and the assessment of the effectiveness of the Committee in delivering the core functions of an audit committee per the 2013 CIPFA Guidance as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be confirmed;

b) Approve a further review of Audit and Governance Committee Effectiveness against the checklist contained within the CIPFA Guidance following the training on the new guidance to be delivered in September be approved; and

c) this report be submitted to the next meeting of Council.

AU 63 Strategic Risk Register

Consideration was given to the Councils Strategic Risk Register.

RESOLVED – That the Strategic Risk Register be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.00 PM

Chairman.....

Date