

# MINUTES OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

30 MARCH 2021

## PRESENT:

**Members of the Committee:** Paul Dudfield (Chairman), John Eves (Vice Chairman) and Councillor McQueen

**In attendance:** Grant Patterson (Director – Grant Thornton), Avtar Sohal (Director – Grant Thornton) and Jim McLarnon (Manager – Grant Thornton)

## 43. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 26 January 2021 were approved.

## 44. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Cranham and Pacey-Day.

## 45. EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE 2020/21

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – Agenda Item 4) concerning progress from Grant Thornton on the delivery of their responsibilities as external auditors to Rugby Borough Council.

The Committee welcomed the new Engagement Lead for the Council, Avtar Sohal. The Committee also thanked Grant Patterson for his services as Engagement Lead over the past five years.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the 2020/21 External Audit Interim Progress Report and Sector Update be noted.

## 46. GENERAL FUND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021-25 UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – Agenda Item 5) concerning an update on the latest Medium-Term Financial Plan.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the update on the General Fund Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021-25 be noted.

## 47. ACCOUNTING POLICIES UPDATE 2020/21

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – Agenda Item 6) concerning the Council's accounting policies for the completion of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

The Interim Chief Financial Officer verbally corrected a typographical error in the report relating to the public inspection of the draft accounts. The draft accounts, along with the supporting accounting records and associated documents, were made available for public inspection for 30 days not 10 days.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the accounting policies for the completion of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts be approved.

**48. TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES UPDATE 2020/21**

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – Agenda Item 7) concerning the updated Treasury Management Practises for adoption by Council.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the updated Treasury Management Practices be endorsed.

**49. 2020/21 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 8) concerning the progress against delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21.

Health and Safety

The Committee received a detailed update in January 2021. A progress report would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee placed on record their thanks to the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Team and officers involved in audits for their hard work.

**RESOLVED THAT** –

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the proposed amendments to the internal audit plan be approved.

**50. 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.

**51. WHISTLE BLOWING INCIDENTS – STANDING ITEM – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES**

The Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager informed the Committee that one case was being investigated and stated that the matter remained ongoing.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Committee be provided with an update at the next meeting.

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

The Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager provided the Committee with an update on a case reported at the last meeting and stated that the matter remained ongoing.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the Committee be provided with an update at the next meeting.

**CHAIRMAN**