

MINUTES OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

7 JULY 2020

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee: Paul Dudfield (Chairman), John Eves (Vice Chairman), Councillors Cranham, McQueen, Mistry and Pacey-Day

In attendance: Grant Patterson (Director – Grant Thornton)

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 9 June 2020 were confirmed by the Chairman.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Paul Dudfield declared a non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct by virtue of employment with TIAA, one of the Council's audit service providers.

15. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20

The Committee considered the report of the Financial Services Manager and Interim Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – Agenda Item 4) concerning the Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20 prior to the external audit.

Minor typographical and formatting changes had been made to the final version of the Statement of Accounts subsequently published on the Council website.

The Committee were informed that the public inspection period would now close on 11 August 2020.

RESOLVED THAT – the summary of the Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20 be noted.

16. 2020/21 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 5) concerning the progress against delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

17. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 6) concerning the governance arrangements in place during the 2019/20 financial year.

It was noted that the Senior Management Team had considered the Annual Governance Statement and no amendments had been made.

RESOLVED THAT – the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

18. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager (Part 1 – Agenda Item 7) concerning the Council's strategic risks and the arrangements in place for monitoring and managing those risks.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

19. 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.

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

There were no issues to report.

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

The Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager provided the committee with an update on the 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