

MINUTES OF AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

30 JULY 2018

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee: Mr J Eves (Vice-Chairman in Chair), Councillors Mistry, Pacey-Day and Roodhouse

Officers: Mannie Ketley (Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer), Chris Blundell (Financial Services Manager and Deputy Chief Financial Officer), Chris Green (Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager) and Veronika Beckova (Democratic Services Officer)

In attendance: Grant Patterson (Director – Grant Thornton)

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 29 May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

11. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence from the meeting was received from Mr P Dudfield (Chairman).

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18

The committee considered the report presented by the Financial Services Manager and Deputy Chief Financial Officer (Part 1 – Agenda Item 4). A representative from Grant Thornton, the Council's appointed external auditor, was present at the meeting.

The accounts have been audited by Grant Thornton who have issued an Audit Findings Report (attached at Appendix 1 of the report) which states the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2018 and that the auditors anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion by 31 July 2018. In addition, they have concluded that the Council has in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Financial Services Team be thanked for their hard work;
- (2) the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 be approved;
- (3) the Audit Findings Report for 2017/18 be noted; and
- (2) the Management Representation Letter for 2017/18 be noted.

13. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2017/18 – ANNUAL REPORT

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

Members were informed that prior to the next meeting of the committee, a training session on Treasury Management will be provided by the Council's Principal Accountant.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Treasury Management report for 2017/18 be noted; and
- (2) the actual treasury management indicators (Appendix A of the report) be noted.

14. 2018/19 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

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

The Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update on four of the overdue recommendations.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the programme of IT internal audit work for 2018/19 be approved; and
- (3) the proposed change to internal audit performance measures be approved.

15. 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.

16. EXEMPTION TO CONTRACTS STANDING ORDERS – APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT ON THE EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

The committee considered the private report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 2 – Agenda Item 1) concerning an exemption to Contract Standing Orders with regard to the appointment of a consultant on the emerging Local Plan.

RESOLVED THAT – the exemption to Contracts Standing Orders decision made by the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer on 18 December 2017 be noted.

17. EXEMPTION TO CONTRACTS STANDING ORDERS – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR THE SECOND STAGE OF HEARINGS OF THE RUGBY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

The committee considered the private report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 2 – Agenda Item 2) concerning an exemption to Contract Standing Orders with regard to the appointment of consultants for the second stage of hearings of the Rugby Borough Local Plan.

RESOLVED THAT – the exemption to Contracts Standing Orders decision made by the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer on 27 July 2018 be noted.

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

There were no issues to report.

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

The Corporate Assurance and Improvement Manager has provided the committee with an update on the issue raised at the last meeting and confirmed that it has been resolved.

CHAIRMAN