

Time Commenced: 6.00pm
Time Finished: 8.00pm

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

9 July 2014

Present: Councillor Tittley (Chair)
Councillors Ashburner, Campbell, Davis, Harwood and Hezelgrave

In attendance
Roger Kershaw – Strategic Director of Resources
Janie Berry – Monitoring Officer
Richard Boneham – Head of Governance and Assurance
Ray Poxon – Head of Procurement
Martyn Marples – Director of Finance and Procurement
Mark Nash – Group Accountant – Corporate
Gemma Hadfield – Principal Accountant - Corporate

01/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sandhu and Turner.

02/14 Late Items

There were no late items.

The Chair requested that a letter be sent to Dave Roberts former Chair of the Committee to thank him for his work with the Committee over a number of years.

The Chair requested that feedback from Councillor Davis on Central Midlands Audit Partnership Board meetings be a standing item on future agendas.

The Chair also set out his vision for the work of the Committee over the coming Municipal Year.

03/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest.

04/14 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Head of Governance and Assurance to organise the self assessment for late July / early August.

05/14 Reporting on Waivers

The Committee considered a report which set out details of 15 waivers during the period 5 March to 18 June 2014

Broken down by directorate we have.

Directorate	Number of Waivers	Approval route		
		Departmental	Urgent	Cabinet
CYP	5	1	4	
Resources	1		1	
Adults Health and Housing – Public Health	2	2		
Adults Health and Housing	3	3		
Neighbourhoods	4	1	3	
Total Number of Waivers	15	7	8	

Resolved

1. To note the report.
2. To summon the Strategic Director of Children and Young People to the next meeting to discuss contract waivers in the Children and Young People Directorate.
3. To request the Strategic Director of Resources to e mail the statement about the spend with Midland HR in the last twelve months and how much was set aside and what the expectations there were for use of days for the project to Members of the Committee.

06/14 Draft Statement of Accounts 2013/14

The Committee considered the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2013/14.

Resolved

1. To note the Draft Statement of Accounts.
2. To send comments and questions to Mark Nash (Group Accountant - Corporate) and he would co-ordinate an appropriate response.
3. To request the Strategic Director of Resources to prepare a pack of questions and comments raised by Committee Members to enable

the external auditors to see which areas had been scrutinised.

07/14 Head of Audit – Annual Audit Opinion 2013/14

The Committee considered a report which provided Members with the Head of Governance and Assurance's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment. The report also contained the annual internal audit report for 2013/14.

Resolved

- 1. To note the Head of Governance and Assurance's opinion on the internal control environment.**
- 2. To note the annual report.**

08/14 Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2013/14

The Committee considered a report which gave an overview of the effectiveness of Internal Audit.

Resolved to note the findings and conclusion that the Internal Audit function is considered to be effective.

09/14 Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

The Committee considered a report which set out the draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14. This had been produced following the completion of the annual review of the Council's governance arrangements.

Resolved to note the draft Annual Governance Statement.

10/14 Governance Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the developments being made within the Council's governance framework.

Committee Members requested an update on the latest position with the insurance of the Assembly Rooms. The Head of Governance and Assurance gave an update on the latest position on the Assembly Rooms both from a reinstatement and non reinstatement point of view.

Members also asked if Blue Badges could be used anywhere in the Country and what the position was if someone moved house permanently.

Resolved

- 1. To note the actions and the progress being made to enhance the governance framework.**
- 2. To note the insurance position in relation to the Assembly Rooms.**
- 3. To request the Head of Governance and Assurance to provide a response to the question raised on the rules relating to Blue Badges.**

11/14 Effectiveness of Risk Management

The Committee considered a report which identified the characteristics of effective risk management and what needed to be in place in the Council to enable it.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To request the Head of Governance and Assurance to bring forward models for effective risk management to be considered at the next meeting**

12/14 National Fraud Initiative 2014

The Committee considered a report which provided a synopsis of the Audit Commission's latest national report on fraud in Local Government.

Resolved to note the Audit Commission report.

13/14 Internal Audit Progress Report

The Committee considered the Internal Audit progress report covering the period 1 January to 31 May 2014.

Members of the Committee raised concerns about the speed that audit recommendations were being implemented. In respect of Children and Young People Directorate, some actions were requested two years ago. The Committee felt that this was not acceptable and requested the reasons for this to be sent to them within two weeks of the date of this meeting.

Committee Members also asked about why significant risk was acceptable in respect of the Academy IT Security audit.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To request the Strategic Director of Children and Young People to respond to the Committees concerns relating to non implementation of audit recommendations within two weeks of this meeting.**
- 3. To request the Strategic Director of Resources to respond to the Committee question relating to the Academy IT security audit within three weeks of this meeting.**

Minutes End