

Time Commenced: 6.00pm
Time Finished: 7.05pm

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

5 February 2014

Present: Councillor Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Ashburner, Campbell, Davis, and Martin

In attendance Phil Jones and Tony Parks
Roger Kershaw – Strategic Director of Resources
Janie Berry – Monitoring Officer
Richard Boneham – Head of Governance and Assurance
Ray Poxon – Head of Procurement

49/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harwood, Troup and Turner.

50/13 Late Items

There were no late items

51/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest.

52/13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. In relation to minute no 42/13 the Strategic Director of Resources provided the Committee with a copy of the external auditor's findings in relation to the objection made by a local elector (regarding taxi licensing).

53/13 New CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance

The Head of Governance and Assurance gave a short presentation on the new CIPFA guidance for Audit Committees. He said that at the next meeting he would bring a report on the new guidance together with a self-assessment checklist. The guidance would also require the Committee to reconsider its terms of reference.

Resolved to note the update.

54/13 Grant Thornton – Certification Work Report 2012/

The Committee considered a report which stated that the Council's external audits,

Grant Thornton were required to certify specific government grant claims and returns submitted by the Council on an annual basis. For 2012/13 Grant Thornton had certified five claims relating to grant income over £190 million. The detailed report from Grant Thornton was attached at Appendix 2 of the report. A number of issues were identified by Grant Thornton as part of their certification work. These were set out in section 4 of the report.

Resolved

- 1. To note the Grant Thornton Certification Work Report 2012/13 set out at Appendix 2 of the report.**
- 2. To note the issues identified by Grant Thornton and the Council's responses to these detailed in section of the report.**

55/13 Reporting of Waivers

The Committee considered a report which set out details of four waivers during the period 23 November 2013 to 17 January 2014.

Broken down by directorate.

| Directorate | Number of Waivers | Approval route | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | Departmental | Urgent | Cabinet |
| Resources | 2 | | 2 | |
| Adults Health and Housing | 1 | 1 | | |
| Neighbourhoods | 1 | 1 | | |
| Total Number of Waivers | 4 | 2 | 2 | |

Two of the waivers were approved under departmental authority, and two under the urgency process.

One waiver was unavoidable, the purchase of Microvans, there being only one brand remaining in the market.

Resolved to note the report.

56/13 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Code Indicators 2014/15

The Committee considered a report which set out information on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Code Indicators 2014/15. The report had been approved by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 22 January 2014.

Resolved to note the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Code Indicators 2014/15.

57/13 Freedom of Information Annual Report

The Committee considered a report which provided Members with a summary report on requests for information received in 2013 under the Freedom of Information Act. It was noted that since 1 January 2014 168 Freedom of Information requests had been received.

Resolved to note the report.

58/13 Anti Fraud Update – Recent Publications

The Committee considered a report which informed Members of the most recent Anti-Fraud publications. The Chair asked what checks and balances were in place to identify fraud and he gave an example of a recent case where someone had retired on ill health grounds, given their pensions and still managed to claim benefits they were not entitled to.

Resolved

- 1. To support and approve the activities which would contribute to the protection and detection of fraud at the Council.**
- 2. To request a report on the processes the benefits fraud investigation team use to identify cases such as the example outlined by the Chair.**

**59/13 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards – Central Midlands
Audit Partnership Internal Audit Charter**

The Committee considered a report which provided the Central Midlands Audit Partnership's (CMAP) Internal Audit Charter.

Resolved to accept the Central Midlands Audit Partnership's Internal Audit Charter.

**60/13 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards – Central midlands
Audit Partnership Quality Assurance and Improvement
Plan**

The Committee considered report which provided the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) used by the Central Midlands Audit Partnership.

Resolved to accept the Quality Assurance Improvement Programme and associated action plan.

61/13 Internal Audit Work 2014/15

The Committee considered a report which informed the Committee of the reduction in internal audit coverage planned for 2014/15.

Resolved to note the impact of the reduction in the Council's contribution to Central Midlands Audit Partnership on the level of internal audit work in 2014/15.

62/13 Internal Audit Progress Report

The Committee considered the Internal Audit progress report as at 31 December 2013.

Resolved to note the report.

Minutes End