

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

HELD: 26 MARCH 2013
Start: 7.00pm
Finish: 7.50pm

PRESENT:

Councillor E Pope (Chairman)
M Forshaw (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Cheetham G Jones
C Dereli R A Pendleton
Y Gagen N Pryce-Roberts
I Grant D Westley

Officers Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Audit Manager (Mr M Coysh)
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

In attendance: Ms K Murray (Grant Thornton)
Mr P Thompson (Grant Thornton)

34. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor G Hodson.

35. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to the Membership.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

37. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 January 2013, be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. GRANT THORNTON CERTIFICATION WORK REPORT 2011/12

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 315 to 328 of the Book of Reports, which presented the External Auditor's findings from their certification of 2011/12 claims and returns.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Delays in providing information for one claim.
- That two of the recommendations from the External Auditor had been completed and the third would be completed in due course.
- That there had been no change in audit procedures, internal or external, in respect of One Connect.

RESOLVED: That the findings be noted.

39. PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 329 to 332 of the Book of Reports, which advised of changes to the Standards applying to internal audit in the UK public sector.

RESOLVED: That the changes to Standards be noted.

40. LOCAL CODE OF GOVERNANCE 2013

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 333 to 344 of the Book of Reports, which detailed the results of the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Governance for 2013/14.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Decisions taken under delegated authority.
- The effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny procedures.

RESOLVED: That the Local Code of Governance for 2013/14, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

41. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY TO MARCH 2013

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 345 to 348 of the Book of Reports, which reported progress against the 2012/13 Audit Plan.

RESOLVED: That progress in the year to date be noted.

42. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2013/14

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 349 to 354 of the Book of Reports, which provided details on the background to the preparation of the 2013/14 Internal Audit Plan and presented it for approval.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Programming of audit of those areas that have over ran from the previous year.
- Availability of information on Contracts over £50,000 on the Council's website and monitoring of contracts by the Management Team.
- That the staffing issue previously raised had been addressed in the plan.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Plan, attached as an Appendix, be approved.

43. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT QUARTERLY MONITORING OF USE OF POWERS

The Borough Solicitor advised that there were no authorisations to report in respect of the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

Comments and questions were raised in respect of:

- Reasons behind the lack of requests for authorisations.
- The two yearly monitoring by the Inspector.

RESOLVED: That the update in respect of the Council's RIPA activity, be noted.

44. WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's programme of work, as contained on page 355 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be approved and ideas for the training session on 25 March 2014 be forwarded to the Chairman, Councillor Pope.

THE CHAIRMAN