

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**HELD: 24 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Start: 7.00 p.m.

Finish: 7.50 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor: Forshaw (Vice- Chairman, in the Chair)

Councillors: Blane Greenall  
Dereli Jones  
Gagen Pendleton  
Grant Westley

Officers: Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)  
Audit Manager (Mr M Coysh)  
Borough Solicitor (Mr T P Broderick)  
Member Services Officer (Mrs J A Ryan)

Also in attendance: Ms C Deegan, Grant Thornton (External Audit)  
Mr P Thompson, Grant Thornton (External Audit)

**12. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Pryce-Roberts.

**13. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule No. 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillor Pope and the appointment of Councillor Blane for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 2013, be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**16. EXTERNAL AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 69 to 104 of the Book of Reports the purpose of which was to receive reports from our External Auditors setting out their findings on the audit of the accounts and on the Council's financial resilience

The Chairman advised Members that this was to be Claire Deegan's last meeting and passed on the thanks of the Committee for all the help and assistance that Claire had given to our Officers.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:-

- The transparency and effectiveness of the report
- Value for Money
- Outsourcing of Services
- Performance Indicators

RESOLVED: A. That the reports be noted.

B. That the gratitude of the Committee to our Officers and External Audit for their hard work be noted.

## **17. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 105 to 224 of the Book of Reports the purpose of which was to approve a number of representations and the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED: A. That the Letter of Representation set out in Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed.

B. That the response on fraud, laws and regulations, and going concern issues set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

C. That the Statement of Accounts set out in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

## **18. INTERNAL AUDIT MID-YEAR REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 225 to 230 of the Book of Reports the purpose of which was to advise of the progress made against the 2012/13 Internal Audit Plan.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- The Benefits Audit
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Service Delivery Issues

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

**19. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT - OSC INSPECTION AND QUARTERLY MONITORING OF USE OF POWERS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 231 to 234 of the Book of Reports, the purpose of which was to monitor the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and to ensure it is being used consistently with the Council's Policy and to update on the recent inspection of the Council's use and arrangements for the RIPA on behalf of the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners (OSC).

RESOLVED: A. That the Council's RIPA activity be noted.

B. That the feedback on the OSC inspection also be noted.

**20. REVIEW OF FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ISSUES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 235 to 250 of the Book of Reports. The report provided a summary of the fraud, bribery and corruption issues facing the Council and the action being taken to deal with them.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- The Impact of Social Payments
- How fraud arrangements are reviewed
- The Benefit Fraud Investigating Team in place in the Authority
- Data sharing with other Authorities

RESOLVED: A. That the self assessment of Fraud and Corruption issues as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

B. That the Counter Fraud Plan as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be endorsed.

**21. TREASURY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 251 to 256 of the Book of Reports, which set out details of the Treasury Management function.

RESOLVED: That the continuing effective operation of the Treasury Management function be noted.

**22. WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the Committee's programme of work, as contained on page 257 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be approved.

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- CHAIRMAN -