

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

HELD: 24 MARCH 2015

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 7.35pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Pope (Chairman)

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|------------|-------------|
| Dereli | Owens |
| Gagen | Pendleton |
| Greenall | Westley |
| G Hodson | Whittington |
| Ms Melling | |

Officers: Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Audit Manager (Mr M Coysh)
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

In attendance: Councillor J Hodson
Karen Murray of Grant Thornton (External Auditors)
Paul Thompson of Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

38. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Pryce-Roberts and Savage.

39. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of membership of Councillor Jones and the appointment of Councillor Ms Melling for this meeting only, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 27 January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. REPORT OF THE BOROUGH TREASURER

Consideration was given to the following reports of the Borough Treasurer as circulated and contained on pages 445 – 498 of the Book of Reports.

43. GRANT THORNTON - AUDIT PLAN

The Borough Treasurer reported upon the External Auditor's Audit Plan of the Council's 2014/15 financial statements.

The Chairman invited Karen Murray from Grant Thornton (External Auditors) to present the Plan to the Committee.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- staffing levels (prior to and following OR reviews)
- redundancies
- agency staff/permanent contracts/zero hour contracts

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

44. GRANT THORNTON - PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer which detailed the External Auditor's update report and outlined progress regarding the delivery of their responsibilities against their audit plan together with a range of other matters.

The Chairman invited Karen Murray from Grant Thornton (External Auditors) to present the update report to the Committee.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

45. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY - QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Borough Treasurer reported upon progress against the 2014/2015 Internal Audit Plan.

The Audit Manager advised that 92% of the items were currently in progress compared with 89% for the same period in 2013/14.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Revenues and Benefits reconciliations
- Universal Credit/rent income
- Areas of work to be carried forward to next year

RESOLVED That progress in the year to date be noted and that a further update on Revenues and Benefits reconciliations be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

46. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer which provided details on the background to the preparation of the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan and presented it for approval.

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

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

In relation to the quarterly monitoring of activity under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) the Borough Solicitor reported that there was no relevant activity to bring to the attention of the Committee.

RESOLVED That the update be noted.

48. WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's work programme as set out at page 498 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED That the Work Programme be noted

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CHAIRMAN