

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

HELD: 22 MARCH 2016

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 7.55pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Bullock (Chairman)

Mrs Baybutt

Blane

Dereli

Devine

Gagen

G Hodson

Mee

Pendleton

Pope

Whittington

West

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: Georgia Jones of Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

34. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

35. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of membership of Councillors Pryce-Roberts and L Hodson and the appointment of Councillors West and Devine for this meeting only, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 26 January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PLAN

The Borough Treasurer reported upon the External Auditor's Audit Plan of the Council's 2015/16 financial statements and value for money issues, as contained on pages 399 – 419 of the Book of Reports.

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

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- New accounting standard on fair value (IFRS 13)
- Welfare expenditure (staffing costs/time delivering universal credit system)
- Value for money (social impact)

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

39. GRANT THORNTON PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, contained on pages 421 – 440 of the Book of Reports, 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 Georgia Jones from Grant Thornton (External Auditors) to present the update report to the Committee.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

40. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY - QUARTERLY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 441 – 444 of the Book of Reports which advised of progress against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan.

RESOLVED That progress in the year to date be noted.

41. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2016/17

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 445 - 448 of the Book of Reports which provided Members with the background to the preparation of the 2016/17 Internal Audit Plan.

RESOLVED That the 2016/17 Internal Audit Plan (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved to take effect from 1 April 2016.

42. LOCAL CODE OF GOVERNANCE 2016

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 449 – 462 of the Book of Reports which set out the results of the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Governance.

RESOLVED That the Local Code of Governance for 2016/17 (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

43. EXTERNAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 463 – 465 of the Book of Reports which provided an update on the commissioning of a review of the Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP).

RESOLVED That the external review of internal audit be undertaken by way of commissioning an external assessment and that suitable budget provision be established.

44. 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.

45. WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme as set out at page 467 of the Book of Reports.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Work Programme be noted.
 - B. That the Treasury Management Training in January 2017 to include BRRD Directive (Bail-in).
 - C. That the training session for March 2017 to be Asset Valuation.

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CHAIRMAN