

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
24TH JULY 2019**

PRESENT: The Chair (B. Angell)
The Vice Chair (Councillor Bolton)
Councillors Bradshaw, Charles, Hadji-Nikolaou,
C. Harris and Parsons

Democratic Services Officer (NA)
Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Head of Strategic Support

J. Machej – External Auditor

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

66. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th June 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

67. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTEREST

No disclosures were made.

68. QUESTIONS UNDER OTHER COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 12.8

No questions had been submitted.

69. EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2018/19 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

A report of the External Auditor was submitted summarising the key issues identified during the External Auditor's audit of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 and the External Auditor's 2018/19 assessment of the Council's arrangements to secure value for money (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

J. Machej, representing the External Auditors, attended the meeting to assist the Committee with the consideration of this item.

The Committee was advised that there was some outstanding work to complete on the audit surrounding the Local Government Pension Scheme but once the information had been received the audit could be completed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason

The Committee was content with the report and had no specific areas of concern or actions that it wished to include as part of its decision.

70. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19

A report of the Head of Finance and Property Services was submitted setting out the Council's Statement of Accounts 2018/19 (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director of Corporate Services attended the meeting to assist the Committee with the consideration of this item.

The Committee was advised that the Chair had met with the Strategic Director for Corporate Services and the Head of Finance and Property Services to ask questions and was satisfied with the response.

The Committee were informed that clarification was still awaited on the Local Government Pension Scheme, and that this may require some further minor amendments to certain items in the statement of accounts.

The Chair thanked the Head of Finance and Property Services on behalf of the Committee for the hard work of the team in producing the accounts in time for the deadline.

RESOLVED

1. that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019, as submitted at Appendix A to the report, be approved and that the Chair (as presiding person) be authorised to sign the accounts on behalf of the Committee;
2. that the Letter of Representation, as submitted at Appendix B to the report, be approved for signature by the Chief Financial Officer;
3. that authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee to agree any minor amendments or adjustments to the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts with the Chief Financial Officer following the meeting, should any such changes be necessary and subject to those being circulated to other members of the Committee beforehand.

Reasons

- 1.&2. To comply with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.
3. To enable any such minor amendments or adjustments to be made without the requirement for a further decision/meeting of the Committee.

71. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19 AND REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was submitted setting out the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and the results of the annual review of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Strategic Support attended the meeting to assist the Committee with the consideration of this item.

RESOLVED

1. that the Annual Governance Statement, as included in the Statement of Accounts, be approved;
2. that the revised Code of Corporate Governance be approved.

Reasons

1. So that the Annual Governance Statement can be finalised and signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in accordance with the required timescales.
2. To ensure that the Code of Corporate Governance is kept up to date and complies with best practice.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 2nd September 2019 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.