

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

16th December 2015

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Grant (Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Wyatt.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn and Shepherd.

AS/20 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Ford (Conservative Group)

AS/21 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 17th June 2015, 23rd September 2015 and 30th September 2015 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

AS/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

AS/23 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

AS/24 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

AS/25 **ERNST & YOUNG: EXTERNAL AUDITOR COMMITTEE UPDATE BRIEFING**

The representative from the Council's new external auditors, Ernst & Young, introduced the report to Members, confirming that planning work will commence in the New Year, for presentation to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Dunn raised a query relating to the Right to Buy Scheme, responded to by the Director of Finance and Management and Councillor Shepherd expressed a view that the four questions referred to on page eight of the auditor's report should be borne in mind for future reference by the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:-

That the briefing document be noted.

AS/26 **LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF WORK PLAN 2015/16**

The Monitoring Officer presented this report to Members.

RESOLVED:-

That progress on the Action Plan for 2015/16 be considered and noted.

AS/27 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Audit Manager delivered the report, highlighting various aspects of its contents, in particular the item showing as 'Not Accepted' under Declarations of Interest. The Monitoring Officer and Audit Manager explained the legal perspective and transparency / good governance principles respectively. Councillor Dunn referred to the difficulties Members face when considering declarations, either on the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form or at committee meetings.

The Chairman expressed his concern at the number of outstanding recommendations detailed in the report and queried the monitoring process. Councillor Shepherd suggested the issue be added to the Corporate Management Team meeting agenda.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 That the report of the Audit Manager be considered and that any issues identified be referred to the Finance and Management Committee or be subject to a follow-up report as appropriate.

1.2 That outstanding audit recommendations be added as an item to the Corporate Management Team meeting agenda.

AS/28 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The Meeting terminated at 4.35pm.

COUNCILLOR J GRANT

CHAIRMAN