

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

13th December 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Grant (Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Wyatt

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn and Shepherd

AS/27 **APOLOGIES**

The Sub-Committee was informed that no apologies had been received.

AS/28 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th September 2017 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

AS/29 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

AS/30 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.10**

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

AS/31 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

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

MATTERS DELEGATED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

AS/32 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT COMMITTEE BRIEFING**

The external auditor presented the report to the Sub-Committee, making particular reference to the 2018/19 Financial Settlement, the Derbyshire pilot for NNDR retention, the New Homes Bonus and preparations for the earlier final accounts closure timetable for 2018.

Councillor Dunn queried two statements in the external audit report, namely the reference to council's receiving an average of '486,500 planning applications per year' and evidence to support the view that following the General Election the Article 50 EU exit negotiations could result in a more 'business-friendly Brexit'. The external auditor acknowledged that the first was an erroneous figure, the second speculation on their part.

The Strategic Director (Corporate Services) addressed the Key Questions posed in the report relating to Brexit, the 2018/19 Financial Settlement, planning application charges, adult social care, council-owned trading companies and the 2018 financial accounts early closure timetable.

The Chairman queried the impact of the Universal Credit roll-out. The Director clarified that it was estimated that it may affect up to a third of current claimants, adversely impacting on rent arrears and, as a result, the bad debt provision position was being reviewed.

RESOLVED:-

Members considered the key questions posed by the Council's External Auditors contained in their recent sector update.

AS/33 **LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2017/18**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report to the Sub-Committee.

Members queried the revisions required relating to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and issues relating to whistleblowing, both matters addressed by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 Members approved the review against the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

1.2 Members approved progress on the work plan to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements in 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

AS/34 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The internal auditor presented the report to the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Dunn queried the status of the dry waste recycling contract and associated risk. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that all reasonable steps had been taken to have the contract signed and that the company in question was operating to the contractual arrangements.

Councillor Shepherd requested an update on the risks associated with the backup server healthcheck. The Strategic Director (Corporate Services) reported on the current situation relating to the eight points in the report.

The Chairman queried the response time between notification of an issue and management action and what assistance the Sub-Committee could provide to ensure progress. The internal auditor suggested that the Sub-Committee concentrate its attentions to the items marked as moderate or significant risk, perhaps inviting the relevant officers to attend the Sub-Committee's meetings to detail their responses to issues as identified.

Councillor Dunn raised the Waste Less, Save More project, in particular, payments and the initial bid process. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the payments matter had been investigated and that the bid process was due to be reviewed, with a report to be submitted to both the appropriate committee in due course. Councillor Shepherd wished for it to be noted that Members should be part of this process and kept informed of progress.

RESOLVED:-

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

AS/35

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.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th September 2017 were received.

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

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

The Meeting terminated at 4.50pm.

COUNCILLOR J GRANT

CHAIRMAN