

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

25th September 2013

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Harrison (Chairman), Councillor Ford (Vice-Chairman) and Hood.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn and Shepherd.

AS/8. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th June 2013 were submitted. The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

AS/9. **ANNUAL REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

Grant Thornton, the Council's appointed auditors presented their statutory Annual Report on the Council's accounts and financial statements for 2012/13. The Sub-Committee was requested to consider the report and its recommendations, together with the proposed management responses. Tony Parks of Grant Thornton took Members through the circulated document. It provided details on the Audit of the Council's annual accounts, financial statements and financial systems for 2012/13. Consequently it provided an opinion on the accounts. It was noted that this report would also be presented to the Finance and Management Committee for formal adoption and publication.

In addition, the report assessed overall value for money arrangements at the Council and provided the Auditor's opinion on whether value for money was provided. Finally, at the end of the Audit, the Council was required to provide a letter of representation. This required the Council's Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer to provide assurances about the status of the accounts and financial statements. Essentially, it confirmed that there were no material issues or transactions known, other than those already reported and disclosed that could materially affect the accounts for 2012/13.

As a result of the assessment, it was confirmed that the auditors would be able to issue an unqualified opinion on the accounts. There were no matters arising and no significant control issues were identified.

The Auditor praised the work of the Head of Service and his staff and thanked the officers for their co-operation.

The Committee welcomed the report and:

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the report be approved; and***
- (2) That having considered the report, the Sub-Committee is satisfied that there are no specific matters that prevent the formal adoption of the Financial Statements.***

AS/10. **INTERNAL AUDIT – QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

A progress report was provided detailing performance and activity of Internal Audit between 1st June and 31st August 2013. Adrian Manifold of the Central Midlands Audit Partnership took Members through the circulated document. This comprised a summary, details of the audit coverage, audit performance and recommendation tracking. The Officer highlighted particular sections of the report and responded to Members' questions. He identified a number of low risk issues but confirmed that there were no serious matters of concern.

It was stated that the audit performance was on target for the year.

Finally, Members discussed recommendation tracking, and noted a new recommendation regarding Council Tax.

RESOLVED:-

That the report of the Audit Manager is received with thanks.

AS/11. **PUBLICSECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS-COMPLIANCE**

A report was submitted by Richard Boneham of the Central Midlands Audit Partnership to provide the Sub-Committee with a self-assessment of conformance with the new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards which came into effect on 1st April 2013.

The report outlined the man changes to the regime and contained a detailed appendix setting out how the new system works.

Members commented that they found the new system to be very comprehensive and:

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

J. HARRISON

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 4.20 p.m.