

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

28th June 2021

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Dunn (Chair) and Councillor Shepherd (Vice Chair).

Conservative Group

Councillors Atkin and Ford.

Independent Group

Councillor MacPherson

AS/01 **APOLOGIES**

The Sub-Committee was informed that no Members had submitted apologies.

AS/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

AS/03 **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/04 **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

AS/05 **AUDIT PLANNING REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021**

The External Auditor presented the report to the Sub-Committee highlighting the key points and delivered a high level summary of the key risks that would be audited as part of their final accounts work. It was noted that a new code for Value for Money meant that it would be looked into in greater detail and any concerns would be raised immediately and not left until the end of the Audit.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2021 was considered and approved.

AS/06 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Internal Auditor presented the report to the Sub-Committee summarising the progress during the period since the last meeting and highlighted salient points from the Audit Dashboard.

Members raised queries regarding the revised dates for the payroll recommendations and the Grounds Maintenance Strategy. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Sub-Committee that the Finance and Management Committee had agreed that the Payroll service was to be contracted out which was expected to happen in April 2022 and that the Strategic Director (Service Delivery) was working on the resources needed to assist with delivery of the Grounds Maintenance Strategy.

RESOLVED:

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

AS/07 **INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Internal Auditor presented the report to the Sub-Committee that contained a summary of all the work carried out throughout the year. The Internal Auditor gave an overview of the information contained within the report and highlighted the Housing and Repairs Audit that was due to be brought to the next Sub-Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Sub-Committee considered and noted the Annual Internal Audit Opinion for 2020/21.

AS/08 **LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the 6 monthly update report to the Sub-Committee, noting that proposals were being considered and staff being consulted in relation to the future working arrangements.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report was approved for publication in the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.***
- 1.2 That progress regarding on-going work to maintain sound governance as detailed in the report was approved.***

AS/09 **DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the draft statement and informed the Sub-Committee that another iteration would be brought later in the year and would not be published until it had been audited. The Strategic Director summarised the key points within the report that included the impact of Covid-19.

Members raised queries regarding the engagement of stakeholders and the staff survey. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) confirmed that in the previous report Principle 2 set out communication with stakeholders that included media briefs, a number of different consultation groups and Area Forums. The Sub-Committee was informed that the staff survey would be accessible via the Council's Intranet and hard copies made available to those who did not have access.

RESOLVED:

The Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 was approved for Audit.

AS/10 **ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Sub-Committee, which following an Audit recommendation would ensure that the Council had a policy that demonstrated a zero tolerance to fraud and corruption.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy as appended to the report was approved.

AS/11 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) delivered the report to the Sub-Committee, that would ensure that the Council had a good system in place to

manage and review risks. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) highlighted the main changes regarding the risk registers and the reporting of risks.

RESOLVED:

That the Risk Management Framework as detailed in Appendix A of the report was approved.

AS/12 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Committee Work Programme to Members.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

AS/13 **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.

AS/14 **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 5:20 PM.

COUNCILLOR DUNN

CHAIR