

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 31 May 2018

Attendance:

Councillors
Cutler (Chairman)

Bentote
Burns
Huxstep

Mather
Prince

Deputy Members:

Councillor Cunningham (Standing Deputy for Councillor Stallard)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Stallard

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Huxstep declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of items under consideration which may have a Hampshire County Council involvement due to his role as County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest regarding these items, he had a dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked the officers for the training on the role of the Audit Committee which had preceded the meeting.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to give consideration at its next meeting to the future requirement to the Audit (Governance) Sub Committee and whether to request Council that it be discontinued as its business could be transacted by the Audit Committee itself.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Huxstep be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

4. **TO NOTE THE TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED:

That the timetable of meetings for 2018/19 be agreed as set out on the agenda

5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2018**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2018 be approved and adopted.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF THE TREASURY INVESTMENT GROUP**

The Committee noted that this item had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration to enable appointments to be made to the Treasury Investment Group at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Audit Committee (Councillor Cutler), one other Member from the Administration of the Council from the Audit Committee (Councillor Burns) and the Shadow Portfolio Holder (Councillor Prince) be appointed by the Audit Committee to the Treasury Investment Group.

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no statements made or questions put from members of the public.

8. **GOVERNANCE QUARTERLY UPDATE QUARTER 4 2017/18**

Members raised questions regarding Procurement and Contract Management in respect of Street Markets and also the details of Partnership Working (which had received a limited assurance) and the officers provided an update on the current situation. It was additionally explained that the Local Government Association Peer Review would now take place in September 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Report and the progress against the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan in Appendix 1 be noted.

9. **ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND OPINION 2017/18**

Mr Pitman from the Southern Internal Audit Partnership presented this item.

The officers provided responses to questions raised by Members in respect of the on-going performance monitoring of Working in Partnership and the update of the Business Continuity Plans.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Internal Auditor's Annual Report and Opinion for 2017 - 18 attached as Appendix 1 to the Report be accepted.

10. **ANNUAL AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION FEE 2018/19**

RESOLVED:

That the indicative annual audit fee for 2018/19 be approved.

11. **WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

The Chairman requested that members of the Committee give consideration to possible matters that they may wish to have considered at the November meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Committee Work Programme for 2018/19 be approved.

12. **DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/18**

The Committee noted that the Report had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration to enable sight of the pre-audit statement of accounts. The accounts had already been signed by the responsible financial officer and were published on the 31 May 2018.

The Committee additionally noted that this Report was open to the public and did not contain and Exempt Appendix as stated on the Agenda for the meeting.

The Committee requested a further briefing on the Annual Financial Report be held before the next meeting of the Committee on 31 July 2018.

Following questions from Members on the content of the Report and its appendix, the Committee requested that consideration be given to moving the first meeting of the Audit Committee for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year to early June to allow Members additional time to give advance consideration to the content of the draft Annual Financial Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft Statement of accounts for 2017/18 be noted.
2. That the draft Annual Governance Statement in the draft Annual Financial Report for 2017/18 be noted.
3. That consideration be given to moving the first meeting of the Audit Committee for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year to early June.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 7.30 pm

Chairman