

Minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2022

Present: Mike Worthington (Chairman)

Attendance

Carolyn Trowbridge (Vice-Chairman)	Phil Hewitt
Bernard Williams	Graham Hutton
Ann Edgeller	Janice Silvester-Hall
Richard Ford	Arshad Afsar
Philippa Haden	

Also in attendance: Lisa Andrews, Ann-Marie Davidson, Debbie Harris, (for all items) John Tradewell and Peter Barker (for item no.137), Louise Clayton (for item no. 144), Natalie Morrissey and David Sharkey (for item no. 142) and Tim Moss (for item no. 143).

Apologies: Bernard Peters and Ian Wilkes

PART ONE

134. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

135. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

136. Appointment of Panel to select IRP Members and Independent Persons

The Director of Corporate Services requested the appointment of 5 members of the Committee to serve as a selection/interview Panel for the recruitment of members for the Independent Remuneration Panel and an Independent Person as required under the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED – That the Panel comprise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee, Mr Afsar, Mrs Edgeller and Mr Ford.

137. Review of the Constitution

The Director of Corporate Services reported that a review of the full Constitution had been concluded and referred to consultation which had taken place with all members, the Cabinet and a Working Group of members of this Committee.

He reported that the issues raised fell into 3 categories: updates/amendments which required formal approval by this Committee and full Council, administrative updates/corrections which he was authorised to approve and, lastly, more general issues which would be the subject of separate discussions.

Full details of all proposals were submitted with Working Group members commenting on the value of the detailed exercise.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the changes proposed in Table 1 to the report be recommended to full Council for approval;
- (ii) the proposal by the Director of Corporate Services to exercise delegated powers to approve the changes detailed in Table 2 be supported;
- (iii) The proposed exploration of further opportunities for supporting elected members, as detailed in Table 3, be noted.

138. Internal Audit Charter 2022

The County Treasurer and Section 151 Officer reported on the requirement to produce and annually review an Internal Audit Charter defining the purpose, authority and responsibility for internal audit activity.

He reported that the latest review had identified the need for 2 minor amendments to include reference to the County Council's new audit management system and to reflect the update to Data Protection legislation to the 'UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

The existence and content of the Charter was recorded on audit reports and featured in staff training.

RESOLVED – That the Internal Audit Charter 2022 be approved.

139. Forward Plan 2021/22 for the Audit and Standards Committee

RESOLVED – That this Committee's Forward Plan for the period to May 2022 be noted.

140. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated.

The Committee proceeded to consider the following items:

141. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2021 (exemption paragraph 3)

142. Progress Report on the Recommendations contained within the Governance and Culture of Cyber Security Audit Report (exemption paragraph 3)

143. Progress Report on the Outstanding Actions for the SEND Transformation - Governance (Decision Making Process) (exemption paragraph 3)

144. Progress Report on the Recommendations contained in the Taxi Investigation Report and Counter Fraud Review (exemption paragraph 3)

Chairman