

AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2024

Present:-

Cllr. Mike Shirley (Chairman)
Cllr. Mark Jackson (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Richard Holdridge Cllr. Roger Stead

Officers present:-

Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Kerry Beavis	- Shared Service Audit Manager
Rose Carrier	- Shared Service Auditor
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer

Also in attendance as observers:-

Cllr. Maggie Wright – Deputy Leader and Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder

Apologies:-

Cllr. Lee Breckon JP and Cllr. Dillan Shikotra and Helen King (Independent Member)

103. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were received.

104. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2024, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

105. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2024/25 Q2

Considered – Report of the Shared Service Audit Manager.

DECISION

That the Internal Audit Progress Report 2024/25 Q2 be noted.

Reason:

To keep the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee informed of progress and recent Internal Audit findings and recommendations, in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards requirements.

106. UPDATE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO TACKLE AUDIT BACKLOG

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer).

The Chairman, Cllr. Mike Shirley stated that he is disappointed that Ernst & Young will not be able to provide a full audit opinion on the 2020/21 statements. The Chairman looks forward to receiving the approval of the 2022/23 accounts by Ernst & Young at the next Committee meeting in November.

DECISION

That the impact of the local audit delays; the communications received and how the audit backlogs are proposed to be addressed be noted.

Reason:

To ensure the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee is appraised of the latest position regarding the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts.

107. AUDIT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members accepted the items on the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee Work Programme.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mike Shirley expressed that appointing an additional Independent Member would be beneficial to the Committee to bring further knowledge and expertise.

108. RISK MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 2024/25

The Chairman reminded members that Appendix B of the report would be considered during closed session.

Considered – Report of the Council Tax Income & Debt Manager, presented by the Finance Group Manager.

DECISION

That the latest information in respect of the Council's major corporate risks be accepted.

Reason:

The overview of the Council's risk management processes is a key responsibility of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. It is important that members are aware of the corporate risks and their potential impact on Council business, and that they review the control measures in place to mitigate risks.

109. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

Considered – A proposed resolution to exclude the public from the meeting.

DECISION

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item, on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

Agenda Item 8: Risk Management Q2 2024/25 (Appendix B)

Exemption Category: 3

Reason for Exemption: The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). Public Interest Test: The public interest test has been considered and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information

110. RISK MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 2024/25 (APPENDIX B)

Considered – Report of the Council Tax Income & Debt Manager, presented by the Finance Group Manager.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.23 P.M.