

AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022

Present:-

Cllr. Shane Blackwell (Chairman)

Cllr. Alex DeWinter

Substitutes:-

Cllr. Mike Shirley (In place of Cllr. Stuart Coar)
Cllr. David Findlay (In place of Cllr. Nick Chapman)

Officers present:-

Nick Brown	- Finance Group Manager
Kerry Beavis	- Senior Auditor
Hayley Clark	- External Auditor
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Also in attendance as observers:-

Cllr. Maggie Wright (Deputy Leader) Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder

Apologies:-

Cllr. Paul Hartshorn and Cllr. Mark Jackson

123. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were received.

124. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2022, as circulated, were approved as correct record.

125. **APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2020/21**

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Hayley Young (Ernst & Young) advised Members that 1 Amendment has been made to the Risk Assessment since the last Audit Planning Report. The risk rating in relation to evaluation of property planting equipment has been increased.

Hayley Young (Ernst & Young) also advised members that a new Auditors Admiral Report will be replacing the usual Annual Audit letter in the near future.

Cllr. Maggie Wright (Deputy Leader) Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder – Raised concerns over delays with Blaby District Council's Audited accounts due to staffing issues.

Hayley Young (Ernst & Young) reassured the Committee Members that they are experiencing resourcing issues surrounding public sector audits but are working as hard as they can to pull audits back in line with expected deadlines.

DECISIONS

1. That the external auditor's report be accepted.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director (Section 151) in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to approve and sign off the Council's audited Financial Statement once all outstanding matters have been finalised.

Reasons:

1. To bring to Members' attention the findings of our external auditors, Ernst & Young (EY) in relation to the audit of the 2020/21 accounts.
2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations require local authorities to have their 2020/21 accounts approved by a resolution of "a committee or by the members meeting as a whole", and no later than 30th September 2021. Due to the ongoing resourcing issues surrounding public sector audits, compounded by the pandemic, and additional reporting requirements, the audit process did not commence until after the deadline for publication. Accordingly, a notice advising of the delay in approval of the accounts was published on the Council's website in September 2021.

126. HOUSING BENEFIT SUBSIDY CERTIFICATION 2020/21

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

DECISION

That the Grant Certification Report be approved.

Reason:

The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee are made aware of the contents of any reports from the external auditors.

127. RISK MANAGEMENT Q2 2022/23

Considered – Report of 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.

128. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23 Q2

Considered – Report of the Shared Service Audit Manager.

DECISION

That the Internal Audit Annual report 2022/23 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.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.05 P.M.