AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2023

Present:-

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

Cllr. Lee Breckon JP   Cllr. Dillan Shikotra
Cllr. Richard Holdridge   Cllr. Roger Stead

Officers present:-

Sarah Pennelli	-	Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Nick Brown	-	Finance Group Manager
Kerry Beavis	-	Shared Service Audit Manager
Katie Brooman	-	Elections and Governance Manager
Sandeep Tiensa	-	Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Isaac Thomas	-	Democracy Support Officer

Also in attendance:-

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

66.   DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were received.

67.   MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2023, as circulated, were approved as a correct record.

46

68.   RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-2026

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Cllr. Mark Jackson asked whether Pentana can be accessed by Councillors and members of the public. The Finance Group Manager responded that Pentana is an internal system, accessible for Councillors but not members of the public.

DECISIONS
1. That comments on the Risk Management Strategy be accepted.
2. That the Risk Management Strategy be recommended to Cabinet Executive for adoption.
Reasons:
1. The existing Risk Management Strategy expired on 31st March 2023, and it is appropriate to review the Council's risk appetite and procedures.
2. Audit and Corporate Governance Committee are responsible for ensuring that risk management arrangements are effective and for advising Cabinet Executive on risk.

69.   UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

DECISION
That the financial performance for 2022/23 be accepted.
Reason:
To give Members the opportunity to comment and ask questions in respect of the Council's financial performance, and unaudited accounts for 2022/23.

47

70. **CIPFA POSITION STATEMENT: AUDIT COMMITTEES IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE 2022 - UPDATE**

Considered – Report of the Shared Service Audit Manager.

Cllr. Lee Breckon proposed that all members of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee should take part in the interview process for co-opted Independent Members to the committee.

The Shared Service Audit Manager responded that the prospect of being interviewed by the full committee might be off-putting for potential applicants.

Cllr. Mark Jackson suggested that a compromise could be reached whereby all committee members could feed into the interview process by preparing the interview questions, while the interview itself would still be conducted by a smaller panel as assigned in the Action Plan in Appendix D of the report.

The Shared Service Audit Manager proposed that members of the committee could attend on the day of the interview to chat to the candidates on an informal basis.

All Members agreed that the posts be advertised and that a date be set for the interviews.

DECISIONS

1. That the report be accepted.

2. That the proposed Action Plan be agreed.

3. That the Person Specification/ Job Description for the co-opted Independent Members and the advertising of the posts be agreed.

Reason:

To ensure that the committee meets its statutory responsibilities for governance and internal control arrangements, financial management, financial reporting and internal control.

71.   **INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Considered – Report of the Shared Service Audit Manager.

DECISION
That the report be accepted.
Reason:
To comply with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

72.   **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2023/24 Q1**

Considered – Report of the Shared Service Audit Manager.

DECISION
That the Internal Audit progress report be accepted.
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 Audit Standards requirements.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7.48 P.M.