

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 13 March 2017

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Miss T G Harper (Chairman)

P J Davies (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: F Birkett, Mrs M Brady, J E Butts, Mrs T L Ellis and S D Martin

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received at this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on the 28 November 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

MATTERS CONSIDERED FOR CONFIRMATION

6. REVISED RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Committee received a report by the Head of Finance and Audit on the Revised Risk Management Policy.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the report for adoption by the Council.

7. ANNUAL AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING PLAN

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance and Audit which summarises the work carried out by the Audit and Governance Committee during the current year 2016/17 and proposes the programme of work for 2017/18.

RESOLVED that the Committee: -

(a) note the contents of the report and;

(b) submit the work programme for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix A, to Council for endorsement.

DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL CERTIFICATION REPORT

(Councillor J E Butts joined the meeting during agenda item-6, minute item-8)

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Finance and Resources on the External Auditors work carried out for the 2015/16 Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim.

RESOLVED that the Committee: -

- (a) considered the information contained within the report and;
- (b) commented on the findings of the Annual Certification Report 2015/16 submitted by the Councils external auditors.

9. EXTERNAL ANNUAL PLAN AND FEE

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Finance and Resources on the External Auditors' Annual Plan and Fee.

Members were introduced to Jason Jones from Ernst and Young who has recently been appointed Manager in charge of the Annual Plan and who will be presenting this report to the Committee at future meetings.

The Chairman addressed the Committee regarding paragraph 4.7 of the report asking members how they would like to receive the progress report at the July meeting. Members agreed that they would like to receive this item as a written report.

RESOLVED that the Committee approved: -

- (a) the 2016/17 Audit Plan, attached as Appendix A to the report and;
- (b) the fees proposed for the External Audit of 2016/17.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT EXTERNAL AUDITORS - UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from the Director of Finance and Resources updating members on the Arrangements for the Appointment of the next External Auditors from April 2018.

The Finance Strategy and Development Manager addressed the Committee giving Members an outline of the PSAA (Public Sector Audit Appointments) process and confirming that the Council had now formally opted into the process. They were also advised that following a consultation period the award should be officially announced at the end of December 2017. A further update will be brought to the Committee at the next meeting on the 17 July 2017.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the information within the verbal update.

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2017-18

The Committee received a report by the Director of Finance and Resources on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the contents of the report.

12. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance and Audit on the Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2017/18.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2017/18, be approved.

13. QUARTERLY AUDIT REPORT

The Committee received a report by the Head of Finance and Audit on the work progress and findings from the Internal Audit Work.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the contents of the report.

14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, as the Audit and Governance Committee considers that it is not in the public interest to consider the matters in public on the grounds that they will involve the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

15. INTERNAL AUDIT PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance and Audit on a proposed Internal Audit Partnership with Portsmouth City Council.

RESOLVED that the Committee delegates authority to the Head of Finance and Audit, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to enter into arrangements as are necessary, and on such terms as are reasonable to develop a partnership with Portsmouth City Council for the provision of Internal audit work.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.07 pm).