



AUDIT & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 13 February 2019 at 6.30 pm in The Octagon Lounge, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

Present: Councillor J Douglas (Chair)

Councillors S Helliwell, D Kerr, N Longos, A McKeown, J Pritchard, K Sizeland, Mr P Grant and Mr M Thomas

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Sloman, A Barrow, C Boynton, J Walton and Mrs C Morgan

Grant Patterson (External Audit) and Councillor Thrane were also in attendance

19/22 TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON ANY MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
(Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations made.

19/23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 February 2019 were approved as a correct record.

19/24 CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS ANNUAL REPORT
(Agenda Item 4)

The report summarised work undertaken to certify the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim submitted by the Authority which found that the Council had appropriate arrangements to compile a complete, accurate and timely claim for audit certification. There was one item not in the return – repayment of right to buy which was a minor issue.

RESOLVED:

That the Certification Letter for 2017/18 be noted.

19/25 EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2018/19 AUDIT PLAN
(Agenda Item 5)

Councillors considered the External Audit Plan for 2018/19. This included matters relating to significant risks, the valuation of assets/pensions and

management override of controls. The Council was on track for its budget and savings plans but still had targets to meet.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council be recommended to note the External Audit Plan for 2018/19.

19/26 EXTERNAL AUDIT - INFORMING THE RISK ASSESSMENT
(Agenda Item 6)

The purpose of the report was to contribute towards the effective two-way communication between auditors and the Council's Audit and Regulatory Committee. Management responses to questions were provided in the report which councillors were invited to scrutinise.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

19/27 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - PROGRESS AGAINST 2017/18 ACTION PLAN
(Agenda Item 7)

Regulations required the Council to conduct a review each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and approve an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The AGS Action Plan (Appendix 1 of the report) outlined the progress made against the required actions as at the end of December 2018. Costs relating to the operating model for the waste collection service were discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the progress information contained within the report be noted.

19/28 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE
(Agenda Item 8)

The Council's Treasury Management performance in 2018/19 was scrutinised in compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and generally accepted good practice. Discussion took place on interest earned and lending to other local authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management position (as at 31st December 2018) be noted.

19/29 2019/20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
(Agenda Item 9)

The purpose of the report was to allow members of the Committee to consider and endorse the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for

2019/20 to ensure that its capital and treasury activities for the next four years were affordable and properly managed. Updates to the Code and the Council's financing requirement were discussed.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2019/20 be approved.

19/30 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE (OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC, OPERATIONAL AND PROJECT RISKS)
(Agenda Item 10)

The Committee considered the Council's risk management arrangements in accordance with accepted good practice. A voluntary desktop review had been carried out by Zurich for which positive feedback had been received. Risks associated with Pavilion Gardens, planning applications were also discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's current risk position and the mitigation plans summarised within Appendix A (strategic risks), Appendix B (operational risks) and Appendix C (project risks) of the report be noted.

19/31 REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
(Agenda Item 11)

The Committee was presented with the updated Risk Management Strategy that set out the Council's risk tolerance threshold. The 2019 strategy review had been informed by a number of considerations, including findings of internal audit and horizon-scanning for emerging risks within the public sector. The risk-threat tolerance threshold was still valid but an equivalent threshold for opportunity risks was proposed.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Risk Management Strategy as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

19/32 2018/19 INTERNAL AUDIT PERIODIC REPORT
(Agenda Item 12)

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required the Council to "undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance". In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Audit Manager must report periodically to the Audit Committee on the internal audit activity's performance relative to its plan. All of the reports that had been completed had received a substantial or satisfactory assurance.

RESOLVED:

That the progress information contained within the report be noted.

19/33

WORK PROGRAMME

(Agenda Item 13)

Consideration was given to the work programme for the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm

CHAIRMAN