



AUDIT & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Meeting: Thursday, 6 June 2019 at 6.30 pm in The Octagon Lounge, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

Present: Councillor E Thrane (Chair)

Councillors D Kerr, D Lomax (substitute for E Longden), R Quinn, K Savage, K Sizeland (substitute for J Douglas) and G Wharmby

Councillor A Barrow and Mr M Thomas were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Cross, J Douglas, E Longden and Mr P Grant

20/1 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2019 be approved as a correct record.

20/2 MEMBER BRIEFING
(Agenda Item 4)

Avtar Sohal, Senior Audit Manager from Grant Thornton, outlined the role of external audit, approach, Value for Money conclusion and the purpose of an audit committee. Other duties, responsibilities, being operationally separate, commercial judgement, risk, regular monitoring, materiality, focus and the audit cycle were discussed.

An Audit Committee Core Function seminar would take place on 18 June 2019. A new skills audit would also be undertaken and training planned as required. The vacancy for an Independent member would be filled.

Members were also briefed on the function of each later agenda item as they were considered.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received with thanks.

20/3 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE
(Agenda Item 5)

The External Audit progress report to the end of March 2019 and sector update were considered. Discussion took place on ensuring the reserves were stable.

RESOLVED: That the progress report and update be received with thanks.

20/4 PLANNED EXTERNAL AUDIT FEE FOR 2019/20

(Agenda Item 6)

Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd were specified as an appointing person under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Authority (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015. They have the power to make auditor appointments for audits of 'opted-in' local government bodies from 2018/19.

The scale fee for 2019/20 had remained at £36,400 which was the same as the previous years' scale fees.

RESOLVED:

That the planned audit fee for 2019/20 be noted.

20/5 2018/19 INTERNAL AUDIT PERIODIC REPORT
(Agenda Item 7)

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires 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. Councillors discussed building control, Carelink, new business models, bank account transactions, assurance ratings, risk assessment, monitoring and progress.

RESOLVED:

That the progress information contained within the report be noted.

20/6 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2019/20
(Agenda Item 8)

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires 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 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Audit Manager should establish a risk based audit plan to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the Council's goals. The audit plan must be based on a documented risk assessment undertaken at least annually. Data breaches were discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's annual Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20 be considered for approval by the Chair by 1 April 2019 and the Committee be updated.

20/7 WORK PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 9)

Consideration was given to the Committee work programme for 2019/20.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.44 pm

CHAIRMAN