

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

12th December 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Grant (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor MacPherson

Labour Group

Councillor Dunn and Shepherd

AS/31 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Clark (External Auditor).

AS/32 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Sub-Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

AS/33 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.10**

The Sub-Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

AS/34 **TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

The Sub-Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

AS/35 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT COMMITTEE BRIEFING**

The External Auditor presented the third quarterly update to the Sub-Committee, making reference to the new accounting standards relevant to the current financial year and an insight was provided to Members that meetings with Officers to implement the new standards are in progress.

Councillor Dunn queried the reference in the report to the potential implications of Brexit and how this can be assessed when there has been limited guidance provided by central government. Councillor Dunn also sought clarification on the Social Housing Green Paper, the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) responded and advised that the matter had also been submitted to the Housing and Community Services Committee.

RESOLVED:-

The Sub-Committee considered and noted the report of the External Auditor.

AS/36 **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The internal auditors presented the report to the Sub-Committee outlining progress within the Audit Plan and outstanding recommendations. The internal auditors identified key issues, including the delay in the delivery of an audit on IT applications due to the staffing resources. The Chairman sought clarification on any cost implications and was reassured by the internal auditor that there were none for this Authority.

Councillor MacPherson sought clarification on training provision for staff in relation to the inspection of play equipment in local parks. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) responded that technical inspections are carried out by the Council's insurance company, the reference in the report related to the timely communication of any problems such as vandalism, broken glass and hazards to the attention of management. The Chairman requested that technical checks made by the insurers be included in future progress reports.

RESOLVED:-

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Audit Manager and agreed that any issues identified are referred to the Finance and Management Committee or subject to a follow-up report as appropriate.

AS/37 **LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 Members approved the review against the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report

1.2 Members approved progress on the work plan to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements in 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

AS/38 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK AND GUIDANCE

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to the Sub-Committee advising that a periodic review of the framework had enabled a consistent and streamlined approach to be adopted across the Council. The Strategic Director advised that in order to embed the framework further, policy committees would be encouraged to challenge risk in reports and further training would be provided for staff

The Chairman sought clarification on who is involved in the reviewing process. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) responded that senior officers would initially conduct this and present it to this Sub-Committee. The Chairman noted that as well as the selected Committee Chairmen, the Member Champion for Risk Management could also be involved in this process.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 Members approved the Risk Management Policy Framework and Guidance.

1.2 Members approved the Framework and Guidance are kept under review and reported to the Committee at least annually.

AS/39 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

It was proposed that the Meeting scheduled for 13th February 2019 be cancelled as the following Meeting is scheduled 20th March 2019; this was carried by the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme with the amendment to cancel the Meeting scheduled for 13th February 2019.

AS/40 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**RESOLVED:-**

That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.

**EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11**

The Sub-Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The Meeting terminated at 4.50pm

COUNCILLOR J GRANT

CHAIRMAN