

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Monday 16th April, 2018, at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Robertson (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)
Councillor Barker
Councillor Chambers
Councillor Craddock
Councillor Young

Mr A Green (Independent Member)

In attendance

Executive Director – Resources and Transformation
Head of Finance
Internal Audit Manager
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Senior Finance Manager
Technical Accounting and Treasury Management Finance Manager
Economy and Environment Internal Programme Manager
Investigations Manager

Representatives of Ernst & Young

24/18 Welcome / Apologies

The Vice-Chair welcomed all in attendance.

No Apologies were received.

25/18 A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February, 2018, was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February, 2018, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26/18 **Declarations of Interest**

None submitted.

27/18 **Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations submitted or petitions received.

28/18 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

That, where applicable, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

29/18 **Notification of any issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting**

There were no issues raised under this item.

30/18 **Independent Member to Audit Committee – Establishment of Interview Panel**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Executive Director – Resources and Transformation presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The report sought to establish an Interview Panel from amongst its membership to interview candidates for the vacant Independent Member positions on the Audit Committee and to make a recommendation to Council, should a suitable candidate(s) be identified.

Resolved that: -

1. Councillors Barker, Craddock and Chambers be nominated to form an Interview Panel.
2. authority be delegated for the Interview Panel to make a recommendation to Council on the appointment of any suitable candidate(s) to the vacant positions of Independent Member on the Audit Committee.
3. That a date / time be agreed in consultation with the above Members outside of this meeting in due course.

31/18

Amendments to officer delegations under Part 3.5 of the Council's Constitution

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The report provided the Committee with amendments to officer delegations which would be considered by Annual Council at its meeting to be held on 21st May, 2018.

Resolved that: -

1. the revisions to officer delegations as set out in the Appendix to this report be noted.
2. the report be circulated to Group Leaders and independent members for information.

32/18

Review of the Constitution – Part 4 – Section 7– Financial Rules

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The report detailed some minor changes to the Constitution's rules of procedure.

Resolved that the amendments to the finance procedure rules, as contained within the report, be approved for inclusion in the updated Constitution to be submitted to Council at its Annual meeting in May, 2018.

33/18

Accounting Policies 2017/18

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Technical Accounting and Treasury Management Finance Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The report detailed the accounting policies for 2017/18. Reviewing the accounting policies prior to completion of the statement of accounts was seen as good practice and this also provided guidance for reviewing the statement of accounts.

The statement of accounts summarised the Authority's transactions for the 2017/18 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2018. The Authority was also required to prepare an annual statement of accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. Those regulations required the statement of accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprised the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 and were supported by International Financial Reporting Standards. Officers advised that there were no changes proposed to existing accounting policies.

Resolved that the report and accounting policies be noted for use in the completion of the financial statements for 2017/18.

34/18

Internal Audit Progress Report 2017/18

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Internal Audit Manager presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

The report provided the Committee with an update on Internal Audit's progress for 2017/18, including an update on Risk Management for the period ending 28th February, 2018.

The Internal Audit Manager responded to small number of questions from Members who sought assurance that everything was being managed efficiently and effectively.

In particular, a Member requested more detailed information in relation to the 'significant amount of debt over a year old' which was referenced on page 17 of the report under 'Accounts Receivable'. Another Member queried what the position on adult social care debt was in relation to invoicing / if it had now caught up or was still some outstanding. The Head of Finance agreed to provide an update on these matters outside of the meeting.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 6.20 p.m.

Chair:

Date: