

### **Chairs Report of the Audit & Risk Committee – 29 Sept and 17 Nov 2014**

The committee has met twice since the last council on the 29 September and 17 November

#### **29 September 2014**

**Quarterly Risk Report** –this report looked at the new risks that had been identified between April and June 2014. It was also noted that since the last meeting of the Committee, officers had rolled out an updated version of the ‘Governance Risk and Control Environment’ (GRACE) system. The updated system is a web-based version of GRACE that allows easier access for users.

**Statement of Accounts** – The Statement of Accounts for 2013-14 were approved following the receipt of a report submitted by the Councils External Auditors, Grant Thornton. The External Auditors are also required to provide a Value for Money (VFM) conclusion and report on the arrangements that the Council has in place for ensuring financial resilience and VFM in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Overall the auditors were satisfied with the arrangements that the council had put in place for VFM and use of resources during 2013/14.

**Internal Audit Quarterly Reports on progress and recommendations-** These were presented to the committee in relation to progress against the audit plan for 2014/15 and also any recommendations that were outstanding at the end of the first quarter. No major issues were identified however some concern was expressed by the committee in relation to Community Centres. The Audit Manager confirmed that this was an on-going process and would continue to be monitored and reports would be brought back to the committee in due course.

#### **17 November 2014**

**Quarterly Risk Report** -this report looked at the new risks that had been identified between July and September 2014.

**Internal Audit Quarterly Reports on progress and recommendations** relating to Quarter 2 were presented to the Committee. No major issues or concerns were identified.

**Treasury Management Half year report** – this provided an update on the half year position in terms of the Treasury Management function for the authority. The full report detailing the economic background and forecasts was provided by the Council’s Treasury Management Advisors, Sector.

**Health & Safety Half year report** – an update on the half year position in relation to Health and Safety was provided. It was reported that the council had seen a reduction in the number of days lost to sickness as a result of accidents at work, this was due to the fact that the long term sickness cases previously reported had now returned to work. In addition the report also covered the actions that had been taken at Birchenwood Pavilion following the identification of Legionella which had been picked up as part of routine testing.

**Annual Audit Letter** –This provided a summary of the conclusions from the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14. A copy of this will be sent to all members of the council.

