

## Report from Chair of Audit and Risk Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Prior to the meeting a training session was held for all members of the committee on the purpose and terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Committee, unfortunately only 2 members attended.

At the meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Corporate Risk Management Report - It was noted that an additional risk had been added under the Strategic Housing lead role for the Syrian Refugee Crisis. It was noted that the planning protocol was being reviewed following a request at the July meeting
- Planned Audit fee for 2015/2016- It was reported that there will be a substantial reduction in the fee charged from £73,336 to £55,002 for next year. The accounts will be audited in a shorter timescale next year with the full audit being completed by July 2016.
- Statement of Accounts and External Auditors Audit Findings- The final accounts were presented by the External Auditor, John Gregory, Grant Thorntons. Findings were minimal and explained by Kelvin Turner and Dave Roberts. The accounts were approved and the letter of representation signed by the Chair and Executive Director – Resources and support Services
- Telling the Story- CIPFA have issued a consultation document which proposes revising the presentation and detail in the Statement of Accounts. This is with the intention to make the financial statements more understandable and user friendly. The Council officers will be responding to the consultation paper.
- Internal Audit Progress report – All areas were adequately controlled other than Safeguarding in the Chief executives department. Although this may seem alarming, this relates to promoting awareness and updating training rather than any safeguarding issues. Processes have now been put in place and these have been actioned. These will be reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet
- Internal Audit Quarterly report- Members were updated on the areas of risk outstanding following Internal Audit reviews. There were no significant recommendations outstanding

Cllr Sarah Pickup

Chair of Audit and Risk Committee