

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 25th September, 2017
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Ms Sarah Pickup – in the Chair
Councillors Dymond, Cooper, S Hambleton and Wing
Officers Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) -
Kelvin Turner, Liz Dodd - Head of Audit and Elections
(and Monitoring Officer), Geoff Durham and Dave
Roberts and Simon Sowerby
Also in Attendance Mr Phil Butters – University of Keele
Mr Paul Harvey – Grant Thorntons

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Simon White and John Gregory (Grant Thorntons).

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July, 2017 be agreed as a correct record subject to Phil Butters being recorded as in attendance.

4. **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT -APRIL TO JUNE, 2017 (QUARTER 1)**

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of the progress made by the Council in enhancing and embedding risk management for the period April to June, 2017.

Members' attention was drawn to the risks as outlined in Appendix A. Two risks at 3 and 4 had increased for the reasons stated in the appendix.

Resolved:

- (i) That the progress that has been made in managing the risks identified within the Strategic, Operational, Project and Partnership Risk Registers, be noted.
- (ii) That point 2.1.1 showing the number of overdue risks be noted.
- (iii) That point 2.2.1 advising of the risk level increases be noted.

- (iv) That point 2.2.2 regarding the new risks identified between April to June 2017 be noted.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17 AND EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report seeking to approve the Statement of Accounts, to receive the external auditor's Audit Findings Report for 2016/17 and to agree the Letter of Representation to the Auditor.

Paul Harvey of Grant Thornton introduced the report and advised Members that there were no significant issues.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 be approved and signed by the Chair.
 - (ii) That the Audit Findings Report for 2016/17 be received.
 - (iii) That the Letter of Representation be approved for signature by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of the Council's performance in relation to complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman.

This was an information item and Members attention was brought to the two appendices attached to the report.

Resolved: That the report be received.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 1 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report updating members on the work undertaken by the Internal Audit section during April to June, 2017.

Resolved: That the information be received.

8. QUARTERLY REPORT : ADOPTION OF INTERNAL AUDIT HIGH RISK RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY OF ASSURANCE 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2017

Consideration was given to a report regarding any outstanding high risk recommendations for Quarter 1 – April to June, 2017 and requesting approval to requested actions and target dates. Also to provide Members with an assurance opinion on internal controls.

Members were assured that the Pentana Audit Management system was working well.

Resolved: That the actions of officers and levels of assurance be noted.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business.

COUNCILLOR MS SARAH PICKUP
Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.30 pm