

Audit and Standards Committee

The committee has met twice since the last full council meeting, on 24th September and 12th November 2018.

During the course of the two meetings the business dealt with was as follows:

Consideration was given to the Local Government Ombudsman Review Letter 2017/18 which informs Members of any complaints made to the ombudsman in relation to the Council's performance. It was noted that any potential financial redress would be made from the planning department's budget.

Members reviewed the Council's Corporate Risk Management reports for the first and second quarters of 2018/19. It was noted that there were no overdue risks but a greater level of detail was requested for the later of the two reports (which was provided). It was felt that this would not be necessary for subsequent meetings and following discussion members requested that only overdue risks should be reported on in future.

Members received the Annual Audit letter and were advised by Phil Jones Grant Thornton) that the Auditors were generally pleased with how the audit had progressed and the quality of the record keeping and the value for money the Council offers. The only item noted was an asset revaluation had been missed and that this would need to be carried out accordingly.

Some concerns were raised in relation to absenteeism as shown in the half-yearly Health and Safety report, where there has been a significant increase in days lost, due to accidents. Members were assured that this related, primarily, to a small number of long term absences but this will be monitored to ensure that it is a spike rather than a trend.

At the later meeting, the Interim Executive Director – Resources and Support Services, Jan Willis, presented the Treasury Management Half Yearly report and advised that matters were largely going to plan and that although cash receipts had been below expectations at the start of the year, rates of return had been better than anticipated, so the returns for the year ought to be in line with budget expectations.

The Internal Audit Progress reports for the two quarters show that despite the staffing issues experienced, the progress of the Internal Audit team was on target and that measures are in progress to address the supervisory requirements of the department.

Next Meeting 11th February 2019.

Paul Waring (Chair)