

Audit and Standards Committee

The committee met on 11th February 2019.

During the course of the meeting the business dealt with was as follows:

Members reviewed the Council's Corporate Risk Management report for the third quarter of 2018/19. It was noted that there were no overdue risks but that there had been six risk level increases. Members agreed that safeguarding training ought to be undertaken by all members and that the Council's Partnerships Manager be asked to ascertain which Members had the relevant training, with all view to all Members receiving the appropriate training within six months.

The Internal Audit Progress report for the quarter three. Members were informed that good progress had been made with six major audits carried out in the period. However, a number of issues have been identified in relation to payroll. I have asked that the Committee be kept informed of the actions being taken in order to resolve these issues.

The Committee considered the Q3 report into Adoption of Internal Audit High Risk Recommendations and Summary of Assurance and also a more comprehensive list of Internal Audit Recommendations with a focus on the outstanding items. During the discussion it became clear that there are issues in relation to the timekeeping system which seems to be unsuitable for some staffing areas. I have requested more information in relation to the deficiencies and that the Committee be kept informed about any progress made.

Tess Barker-Phillips of Grant Thornton explained the External Audit Plan for the Year to 31st March 2019 and gave an overview of the work to date. She also gave details of the report Informing The Audit Risk Assessment For Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council 2018-19 which is primarily to assist two-way communication in relation to the Audit and explain the audit process and what the Auditors will need, and information to be relied upon, during the course of the Audit.

Members were informed that in future the Internal Audit Planning would be carried out, on our behalf, by Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Next Meeting 15th April 2019.

Paul Waring (Chair)