

Audit and Standards Committee

The committee has met twice since my last report, meeting, on 15th April and 24th June 2019.

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

Members reviewed the Corporate Risk Management Report for the period January – March 2019 noting that there were no overdue risk reviews. Questions were asked in relation to an accident that had occurred, but Members were advised that all safety systems were in place and operational.

Phil Jones of Grant Thornton gave a brief explanation of the 2019 Audit progress report and noted that there were some accounting issues to be dealt with, mainly relating to property valuations.

Clare Potts from Stoke on Trent City Council presented the Internal Audit plan for 2019-20, as prepared by her department, and this was approved by Members together with the Internal Audit Charter.

Members reviewed counter fraud arrangements and a Member asked what limit the council had in relation to cash transactions. When informed that it was £2000, Officers were asked to provide details of cash limits at other nearby authorities. At the following meeting the committee was informed that several other councils used the same limit, however, Stoke on Trent City Council has a limit of £8000.

The Health and Safety Annual Report 2018/19 was presented to Members and there were no issues of note. Members also reviewed the Treasury Management Annual Report 2018/19 and agreed that this be presented to Full Council on 24th July 2019.

Members were advised that the Draft Statement of Accounts showed a positive outturn of £8155, and details were provided in relation to the major variances. Members were assured that the budget for the current year incorporated any necessary revisions to align it actual figures for the previous years, subject to any relevant amendments.

Approval was given to the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 for inclusion into the Financial Statements for the same period. Members were informed that the Council would soon be entering into an arrangement with Stoke on Trent City Council to enhance its anti-fraud capabilities.

Next Meeting 29th July 2019.

Paul Waring (Chair)