

## **AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**26 AUGUST 2020**

Present:

Councillors Morgan (Chairman), Rollason (Deputy Chairman), H Cox, Colclough, Mullone, Purser and Thorne

Members in Attendance:

Apologies:

Councillors J Petherick

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Sue Heath, Audit Manager

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Liz Gingell, Business Improvement Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Amanda Pujol, Head of Service Delivery and Improvement

### **38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 December 2019 were signed as a correct record by the Chair.

### **39. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The motion was introduced by the Chair.

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Purser that the Committee approve the following recommendation:

(1) A Board of representatives from local formally constituted groups representing those with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act) be formed to review the Council Equality Impact assessment on the COVID recovery plan once this has been completed; and

(2) A spotlight review group comprising of the Chair of Audit Scrutiny, Cllrs Jeffries, Mullone, L Petherick and Thorne formed to:-

(a) Review the Councils HR and Equalities practice including the provision of Equalities training for members and officers; and

- (b) Review the criteria for the Cllrs community fund and recommendations be made to ensure funding promotes project which address inequalities;
- (c) Consider who should be invited to join the Board of representatives as detailed in recommendation (1) above.

Resolved

That the recommendations be approved as set out in the agenda report.

#### **40. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The report was introduced by the External Auditor from Grant Thornton. They informed the Committee that the audit had commenced virtually earlier in the month.

In response to member questions, the External Auditor explained that they had compensated during lockdown by working closely with the finance team and continuing the electronic transfer of information, and also explained how they evaluate Teignbridge's accounts.

Resolved

That the Committee note the report.

#### **41. STRATEGIC & CORPORATE RISK REPORT**

The Project Manager introduced the report.

They informed the Committee that there were 25 strategic risks and 12 corporate risks, as well as several service risks and project risks that were not part of this report. There is a risk management report included in the agenda which manages these risks.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Financial Officer told the Committee that there had been monthly updates to the Executive, as well as an updated budget to be agreed at Full Council and reports to the Executive every other month.

Resolved

That the committee note the report.

#### **42. 2019/20 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report.

The CFO informed the Committee that the item had been sent to Executive first due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. It was noted that the reserves were

higher than expected in February and that there had been ongoing efforts to move information to an electronic format.

In response to questions from members, the CFO informed the Committee of which accounts were currently in use.

Resolved

That the Committee note the report.

#### **43. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Audit Manager introduced the report.

The Audit Manager informed the committee that Devon Audit Partnership had carried out the Audit for the Teignbridge ICT Company Strata which provided substantial assurance on the adequacy of Teignbridge's ICT.

In response to questions the Audit Manager explained that the risk management audit would be prioritised in this year's Audit Plan which would be brought to Committee in October.

Resolved

That the Committee note the report.

#### **44. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-2020**

The Audit Manager introduced the report.

In response to questions from members the Audit Manager gave an update on the actions carried forward from last year's Annual Governance Statement had not which been completed due to changes in priorities as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and that some changes such as the work of the Constitutional Review Group were still ongoing.

Resolved

That the Committee recommend the Annual Governance Statement to Full Council for approval.

#### **45. FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND CONTRACT PROCEDURES RULES WAVIER REPORT**

The Audit Manager introduced the report.

The waivers were backdated to December due to the cancellation of the March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to member's questions, the Audit Manager clarified the background for two of the waivers.

Resolved

That the Committee note the report.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and finished at 12.35 pm.

Chair  
Cllr Sally Morgan