

AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2023

Present:

Councillors Morgan (Chair), Rollason (Vice-Chair) and H Cox

Members in Attendance:

Councillors Connett

Apologies:

Councillors Colclough, Goodman-Bradbury, Mullone and Thorne

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Sue Heath, Audit Manager

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer to the Council

Jack Williams, Performance Data Analyst

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

23. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Audit Manager introduced the report. The Committee discussed the ongoing decarbonisation work, procurement, the work on energy rebate highlighted in table 2.2, Ukrainian support, and the ongoing review of admin permissions.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

24. FINANCIAL PLAN 2023 TO 2028 - REVIEW

The Chief Financial Officer introduced the report. The Committee noted that the report would be added to the Full council appendices for February and would go onto the work program. The Committee also discussed the work that had gone into the annual budget and the funding of services.

Resolved

That the Financial Plan 2023-2028 be forwarded onto Full Council.

25. FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND CONTRACT RULES WAIVERS

The Audit Manager introduced the report. The Committee discussed regular monitoring meetings that would take place, such as with the housing team. They also discussed the Modern25 program, Ukrainian safeguarding, and the Ignite training.

Resolved that the report be noted and forwarded to the Executive.

26. ANTI FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING POLICIES - APPENDIX - ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The Audit Manager introduced the report. The Committee discussed the whistleblowing policy, staffing impact, the investigation process, protections for the whistle-blower, audit training for the 2023 members' induction, and the anonymous submission form on website.

Resolved

That the Anti Fraud and Whistleblowing policy be recommended to Full Council for approval.

27. STRATEGIC AND CORPORATE RISK REPORT

The Performance Data Analyst introduced the report. The Committee discussed forwarding the report to Executive for wider viewing and to promote risk management, the various risks including management of the upcoming election, challenging risk levels, the monthly risk report sent to the Strategic Leadership Team, mitigated vs unmitigated risks, the new strata governance review and the barrister involved.

Resolved

That the report be noted and sent to Executive for discussion.

28. REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee discussed the revisions to the constitution that had been proposed by the Monitoring Officer. They noted that the aim of the constitution was to provide an operating manual for the Council.

It was agreed that the revisions would be forwarded onto the Procedures Committee for discussion.

The Committee received an update from the Chief Financial Officer regarding the ongoing external audit. They were told that Grant Thornton were still working

on the 2021 accounts. They also heard that resourcing issues were affecting the undertaking of the audit and that it would come to Committee when ready.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and finished at 11.35 am.

Chair
Cllr Sally Morgan