

Chairman - Councillor A M Loughran

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

I D Forham

J A Nixon

P W Jones

Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Deputy Leader and Resources
Portfolio

Also present:-

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
Mrs J Aupers	-	Head of Governance
Mr S Baddeley	-	Chief Internal Auditor
Mr J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

AAC26 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January as published in Digest No 265 were agreed as a correct record.

AAC27 Strategic Risk Register

Considered the report of the Head of Governance (V1 16/06/20) setting out detail of the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 31 May 2020.

The Head of Governance summarised the risk profile as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report before referring Members to the associated appendices containing the summary of the Council's strategic risk register as at 31 May 2020 and the full strategic risk register. Clarification was provided of how the Council's risks were scored.

Continuing, the Chief Executive noted the ongoing dialogue held with Central Government relating to the support available to Local Government during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, and reiterated how fluid the current situation was.

Members then voted on the recommendations as set out, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Strategic Risk Register and progress made in the identification and management of the risks be noted.

AAC28 **Internal Audit Annual Report**

Considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (V1 04/06/20) presenting the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2019-20

The Chief Internal Auditor referred Members to paragraphs 5.4 – 5.6 of his reports and the associated Appendix 1 (noting a small typographical error on page 40 of the agenda) and those audits with partial assurance.

Continuing, Mr Baddeley brought Appendix 2 to Members attention, highlighting paragraphs 2.6 - 2.9 and 3.2 - 4.1 for specific consideration, before addressing points raised regarding:-

- Leisure major projects
- Appointment of Internal Audit apprentice
- Pro-active fraud work
- Fraud/irregularity investigations

Members then voted on the recommendations as set out, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2019-20 be noted.

AAC29 **Annual Governance Statement**

Considered the report of the Head of Governance (V1 16/06/20) setting out the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2019-20.

The Head of Governance referred Members to Appendix 1 of the report and noted the mechanisms in place to provide assurance and the key sources feeding into that process.

Continuing, the governance issues as set out on page 63 of the agenda were detailed, along with those matters which had been deferred until 2021/22 to allow resources to be focussed on planning for recovery from the effects of the CV19 pandemic.

Members then voted on the recommendations as set out, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20 be approved.

AAC30 External Audit Plan Year Ended 31 March 2020/Update

Considered the report of Grant Thornton providing an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council, and the associated update.

Mr John Farrar, Director, Grant Thornton, detailed the purpose of the report which provided an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council. Particular attention was drawn to significant risks, materiality and value for money arrangements.

Continuing, Mr Farrar led Members to the associated update report, noting the increased uncertainty caused as a result of the CV19 pandemic and those resulting significant risks.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the External Audit Plan for the Year Ended 31 March 2020 (and the associated update) be received.

AAC31 External Audit Documents

Considered the following reports of Grant Thornton:-

- Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Stafford Borough Council 2019/20;
- Covid19 – Potential Impact on this Years Annual Accounts and Audit;
- Preparation and Audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts;
- Covid 19 and Local Government – Briefing for Audit Committees

In order to assist Members Mr Hamze Samatar, Manager, Grant Thornton provided a brief summary of the reports.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the External Audit Documents as detailed above be received

CHAIR