

Minutes of the Audit and Accounts Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Tuesday 26 July 2022

Chairman - Councillor A M Loughran

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

Councillors:

M G Dodson B McKeown P W Jones A Nixon

Also present - Councillor M Green

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs J Aupers - Head of Governance

Mr S Baddeley - Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager

Mrs E Fullager - Deputy Head of Finance
Mr J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

AAC1 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022, as previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager for his response to questions raised by Members at the last meeting of the Committee.

AAC2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I D Fordham (substituted by Councillor B McKeown), R A James and R M Smith.

The Chairman and fellow Committee Members passed on their best wishes to Councillor Smith and his family during his period of ill health.

AAC3 Strategic Risk Register

Considered the report of the Head of Governance setting out details of the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 1 April 2022.

The Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager referred Members to the associated appendices to the report prior to addressing queries regarding:-

- Red risks C1 and C4
- FHSF Programme Delivery Team and Project Board
- Monitoring of voluntary sector service level agreements

On conclusion of the debate Members voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

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

AAC4 Internal Audit Annual Report 2021-22

Considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager presenting the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2021-22.

The Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager referred Members to the associated appendices to the report before responding to questions concerning:-

- Those audits with partial assurance
- Audit follow ups (specifically tree management works)
- Leisure open book and recovery

Continuing, Members were asked to consider pages 47 - 49 of appendix 2 before assurance was given that those areas under progress would be given priority during the planned work for 2022/23.

The Head of Finance provided an update regarding implementation of the new finance system, as requested.

Members then voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2021-22 be noted.

AAC5 Annual Governance Statement 2021-22

Considered the report of the Head of Governance setting out the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2021-22.

The Head of Governance noted the information as detailed in paragraph 3.5, before referring Members to the associated appendix 1, highlighting paragraph 6 - Significant Governance Issues. Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any point requiring clarification, which were duly addressed by Officers.

Members then voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22 be approved.

The Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22 was duly submitted for signature by the Chairman of the Committee, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

AAC6 Treasury Management Report - Increase in Money Market Funds

Considered the report of the Head of Finance updating Members on treasury management activity and requesting an increase to the monetary limits with MMFs (Money Market Funds) from £6m to £9m.

The Deputy Head of Finance provided the rationale for the proposal and addressed questions concerning the investment list as detailed in paragraph 5.6 of the report.

Members then voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee monetary limits with MMFs be increased from £6m to £9m.

CHAIR