

# Minutes

of the Meeting of the

## Audit Committee

**Wednesday, 6th September 2017**

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 3.10pm

Meeting Concluded: 4pm

### Councillors:

P Mary Blatchford (Chairman)

P David Jolley (Vice-Chairman)

A Bob Garner

P John Ley-Morgan

P Marcia Pepperall

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Independent Members:** Beverley Robertshaw, Tony Roche

**Also in attendance:** Kevin Henderson (Grant Thornton)

**Officers in attendance:** Steve Ballard (Corporate Services), James Bidwell (Corporate Services), Peter Cann (Audit West), Malcolm Coe (Corporate Services), Heather Sanders (Corporate Services), Mel Watts (Corporate Services), Jeff Wring (Audit West)

### **AUD Councillor Derek Mead (Deceased)**

1

Welcoming Councillor John Ley-Morgan to his first meeting of the Audit Committee, the Chairman commented that Members' sympathies were with Councillor Mead's family following his untimely demise.

### **AUD Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Agenda item 3)**

2

None.

### **AUD Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2017 (Agenda item 4)**

3

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

### **AUD Statement of Accounts 2016/17 (Agenda item 5)**

4

The Head of Finance & Property reported on the Statement of Accounts. The report invited the Committee to consider the matters raised in the Annual

Governance Statement and to note adjustments to the financial statements (if any) as set out in the external auditor's report.

Kevin Henderson of Grant Thornton outlined the salient points of the Audit Findings report and responded to Members questions.

The Head of Corporate Accountancy then responded to Members' questions.

The Head of Finance & Property thanked Grant Thornton for carrying out the audit, expressing his personal thanks to the Head of Corporate Accountancy and her team. Members commended these sentiments.

**Resolved:**

- 1) that the letter of representation be approved;
- 2) that the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 be approved and signed by the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Chief Financial Officer as representing a 'true and fair view' of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2017; and
- 3) that the Council's Annual Governance Statement be formally approved by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer as part of the financial statements and signed accordingly.

**AUD 5 Treasury Management Out-turn 2016/17 (Agenda item 7)**

The Head of Finance & Property reported on the Council's treasury management activities in 2016/17. The report informed the Committee of the transactions carried out during the year and the prudential indicators for 2016/17. The Project Accountant (Treasury) and the Head of Finance & Property then responded to Members questions

**Resolved:** that the Council's performance in carrying out its treasury management activities in 2016/17 be noted.

**AUD 6 Appointment of External Auditors (Agenda item 8)**

The Head of Audit West reported on procurement of the Council's external audit services. The report updated the Committee on progress with the sector led procurement exercise and recommended that the PSSA Ltd. nomination be supported, thus allowing the Section 151 Officer to confirm the appointment

**Resolved:** that the nomination of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP as the Council's external auditor for a period of five years effective from April 2018 be supported.

**AUD 7 Local Code of Corporate Governance (Agenda item 9)**

The Head of Audit West reported on a revised local code of corporate governance. The report advised the Committee that the local code of

corporate governance had been refreshed in light of new CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.

Responding to a question the Head of Audit West advised that adherence to the code by the Council's contractors was something that could be considered in the future. A member proposed that in view of the government's determination to eradicate modern day slavery practices that this should form one of the sub-principles of the code.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

It was further,

**Recommended to the Council:** that the revised local code of corporate governance be adopted at the next formal review of the Constitution.

**AUD  
8**      **Annual Report (Agenda item 10)**

The Chairman presented her report setting out the work undertaken by the Committee during 2016/17. Referring to section d of the report relating to corporate governance, a member proposed that the key risks facing the Council should be itemised. Commenting that the risks changed over time, the Head of Audit West none-the-less undertook to augment the risk management narrative.

**Resolved:** that the Committee's Annual Report for 2016/17 be approved.

It was further,

**Recommended to the Council:** that the Committee's Annual Report for 2016/17 be received.

---

Chairman

---