

Contact: Hazel Brinton
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Date: Thursday, 15 April 2021

****Virtual Meeting**

Dear Sir or Madam

The Audit Committee – Friday, 23 April 2021, 10.30 am – Virtual meeting by Teams

A meeting of the Audit Committee will take place as indicated above. Councillors will be sent a Teams Meeting invitation to place the meeting in their Calendar and can then access the meeting from the link in that calendar item.

Please Note that any member of the press and public may listen in to proceedings at this 'virtual' meeting via the weblink below –

<https://youtu.be/szq2avDdtlY>

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer

To: Members of the Audit Committee

Councillors:

John Cato (Chair), Sandra Hearne (Vice-Chairman), Patrick Keating, Marcia Pepperall and Richard Tucker.

This document and associated papers can be made available in a different format on request.

Agenda

1. **Public Participation (Standing Order 17 as amended by SO 5A)**

To receive written submissions from any person who wishes to address the Committee. The Chairman will select the order of the matters to be received.

Please ensure that any submissions meet the required time limits and can be read out in five minutes (up to a maximum of 30 minutes).

Requests and full statements must be submitted in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, or to the officer mentioned at the top of this agenda letter, by noon on the day before the meeting and the request must detail the subject matter of the address.

2. **Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes**

3. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37 as amended by SO 7A)**

A Member must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest where it relates to any matter being considered at the meeting. A declaration of a disclosable pecuniary interest should indicate the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. A Member is not permitted to participate in this agenda item by law and should immediately leave the meeting before the start of any debate.

If the Member leaves the meeting in respect of a declaration, he or she should ensure that the Chairman is aware of this before he or she leaves to enable their exit from the meeting to be recorded in the minutes in accordance with Standing Order 37.

4. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)

28 January 2021, to approve as a correct record (attached)

5. **Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other Committees and Panels (if any)**

6. **External Audit Update** (Pages 11 - 32)

Report from the Council's External Auditor (attached)

Audit Progress Report and Sector Update Year Ending 31 March 2021

7. **Update on Annual Accounts** (Pages 33 - 44)

Report of the Director of Corporate Services (attached)

8. **Internal Audit Update** (Pages 45 - 76)

Reports of the Head of Audit West (attached)

9. Urgent business permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 (if any)

Any item of business which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances (to be specified in the Minutes). For a matter to be considered as an urgent item, the following question must be addressed:

“What harm to the public interest would flow from leaving it until the next meeting?” If harm can be demonstrated, then it is open to the Chairman to rule that it be considered as urgent. Otherwise the matter cannot be considered urgent within the statutory provisions.

Exempt Items

Should the Audit Committee wish to consider a matter as an Exempt Item, the following resolution should be passed -

“(1) That the press, public, and officers not required by the Members, the Chief Executive or the Director, to remain during the exempt session, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the ground that its consideration will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.”

Also, if appropriate, the following resolution should be passed –

“(2) That members of the Council who are not members of the Audit Committee be invited to remain.”

Mobile phones and other mobile devices

All persons attending the meeting are requested to ensure that these devices are switched to silent mode. The chairman may approve an exception to this request in special circumstances.

Filming and recording of meetings

The proceedings of this meeting may be recorded for broadcasting purposes.

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman.

Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.