



MINUTES

Audit and Standards Committee

Date:	Thursday, 24 May 2018.
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor John Singleton JP (Chairman) Councillor David Donaldson (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Graeme Neale, Louis Rigby, Roger Small.
Officers Present:	Tracy Morrison, Tara Walsh.
Other Attendees:	Mr Anthony Mozley, Independent Person.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. No interests were declared on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 15 March 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitution was reported under Council procedure rule 22 (c):

Councillor Susan Fazackerley for Councillor Edward Nash.

Standards Information Item

(Councillor Louis Rigby arrived for the meeting prior to the discussion of this item).

4. Issues Raised with the Monitoring Officer

Ms Tracy Morrison, Director of Resources, was invited to present the Monitoring Officer's periodic report. In doing so, she made reference to the table set out on page 4 of the report which identified the nature of the allegations made in the complaints since the previous report was presented to the committee in January 2018. The report highlighted two Borough matters that had been brought to attention of the Monitoring Officer.

It was also noted that following an investigation and an agreed resolution, one complaint had also been closed during this period.

The Chairman went on to thank Mr Anthony Mozley, who was in attendance at the meeting, for his contribution to this investigation.

(At the conclusion of the above item, Mr Mozley left the meeting).

Audit Decision Items

5. Contract Procedure Rules

The Chairman invited Ms Tracy Morrison, Director of Resources, to present a report on the proposed changes to the Contract Procedure Rules which form part of the Council's constitution.

Members were advised that the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires local authorities to consider the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area when procuring services valued at or above the EU threshold. After considering some of the social value policies introduced by other authorities, the Corporate Governance Group felt that it would be more proportionate to include reference to the requirements of the Act in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and incorporate further information in the 'Guide to Buying for the Council'.

Ms Morrison went on to inform members that the proposed changes relating to rule 1.1 of the Contract Procedure Rule as outline in paragraph 4 of the report.

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED to recommend to Council the adoption of the amendments to rule 1.1 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules as set out in the report.

6. Confirmation of Appointment of Chief Auditor

Ms Tracy Morrison was invited by the Chairman to present the report. In her report, Ms Morrison advised that following the retirement of the Head of Internal Audit, a joint recruitment of a Shared Head of Internal Audit had taken place with Preston City Council. As a result of this, the post had been offered to Ms Dawn Highton.

In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Committee's approval was sought regarding the appointment. Following discussion, it was AGREED to:

1. Approve the appointment of Dawn Highton, Shared Head of Internal Audit with Preston City Council, to act as the Council's Chief Audit Executive.
2. Request that a report on the Audit Plan 2018/19 be presented to the committee as priority following Ms Highton's appointment.

7. Annual Governance Statement

Ms Morrison was invited to present a report on the Annual Governance Statement which had been prepared under the CIPFA/SOLACE framework.

Members were advised that the Corporate Governance Group had conducted a detailed self-assessment of the Council's governance against the latest guidance and had included within the Statement various areas for improvement.

A copy of the Annual Governance Statement was included as an appendix to the report.

At the conclusion of the presentation, members asked for an update on the constitutional review which had been presented at a previous meeting of the committee. In response, Ms Morrison stated that an opening meeting with respect to the review was planned with Councillor Singleton in his capacity as Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee and following this, she would liaise with other appointed members of the Working Group (Group Leaders).

The committee RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.
2. To receive an update on the Action Plan (proposed by the Corporate Governance Group) at the September 2018 meeting of the Committee.

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