



MINUTES

Audit and Standards Committee

Date:	Thursday, 18 March 2021
Venue:	Remote meeting via Zoom
Committee Members Present:	Councillor John Singleton JP (Chairman) Councillor Ellie Gaunt (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Paula Brearley, Peter Collins, Brian Gill, Ed Nash, Sally Nash-Walker and Ray Thomas.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley – Leader of the Council
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Paul O'Donoghue, Ian Curtis, Sharon Wadsworth Paul Hewitson from Deloitte LLP

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 meeting held on 14 January 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitution was reported under Council procedure rule 23(c):

Councillor Ray Thomas for Councillor Delma Collins

Audit Decision Items

4. Annual Audit Letter 2019/20

Paul Hewitson, Director from the Council's external auditors Deloitte LLP, was invited by the chairman to summarise the key matters contained in the Annual Audit Letter for the financial year 2019/20. Mr. Hewitson explained that the Audit Letter summarised the work that Deloitte had carried out and was the formal closure of the audit for the year ended 31 March 2020 and thanked the finance team for their assistance.

It was RESOLVED to note the contents of the Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20 prepared by Deloitte LLP which was appended to the report.

5. Audit Service

Ian Curtis, Head of Governance, introduced the report regarding the award of an exempt contract to Mersey Internal Audit Agency until March 2022. Mr. Curtis explained that the Shared Head of Internal Audit had recently left the authority and at the same time an auditor within the team had also resigned leaving the service with one FTE

Minutes – Audit and Standards Committee – 18 March 2021

Senior Auditor. The rapid depletion of resources exposed the council's vulnerabilities in this small team and the lack of resilience which now exists as a result. The award of the contract to Mersey Internal Audit Agency was a short-term solution to address this issue prior to an options appraisal being instigated for the future delivery of the service.

It was RESOLVED;

1. To note the awarding of a contract, under the exempt contract procedure rules, by the Director of Resources to the Mersey Internal Audit Agency until the 31 March 2022 for a partial internal audit service including the role of Head of Internal Audit.; and
2. To seek an options appraisal report from the Head of Governance in the Autumn to consider how the internal audit service can be delivered from 1 April 2022 onwards with resilience built into future arrangements.

3. Internal Audit Plan 2021-22

Mr. Curtis introduced the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan that had been compiled in consultation with Directors and Heads of Service following a detailed risk assessment.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 and associated performance indicators.

4. Constitution Amendment: Meeting Schedule

The report suggested a minor change to the council procedure rules that would allow the schedule of meetings for a municipal year to be settled earlier than that it was currently provided for.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to council that the text of council procedure rule 4.3 be amended to substitute the words 'no later than', in place of 'at'.

Audit Information Items

The following information item was received by the committee.

5. Update on the Strategic Risk Register

The committee received a progress update on the risks contained within the Strategic Risk Register.

6. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Authorisations

The Committee received the quarterly review of the use, by the council, of covert surveillance and covert human intelligence. It was advised in the quarter to March 2021 there had been no authorised operations.

Fylde Council copyright [2021]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context.

The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication was also available on our website at www.fylde.gov.uk
any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.