



MINUTES

Audit and Standards Committee

Date:	Thursday, 21 May 2020
Venue:	Remote meeting via videoconferencing
Committee Members Present:	Councillor John Singleton JP (Chairman) Councillor Ed Nash (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Paula Brearley, Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, and Sally Nash-Walker
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Paul O'Donoghue, Ian Curtis, Mark Evans, Dawn Highton, Tara Walsh
Other Attendees:	None

Welcome

By way of introduction, the Chairman welcome members to the first remote meeting of the Committee. In addition, he asked Mr Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, to provide an update of the Statement of Accounts and Ms Dawn Highton, Head of Internal Audit, to provide an update on the Internal Audit Plan.

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 16 January 2020 as a correct record.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members on this occasion.

Audit Decision Items

4. Planning Appeals Protocol

(Councillor Peter Collins left the meeting during the discussion of this item)

Mark Evans, Head of Planning and Housing, presented the report which asked the committee to consider the Planning Appeals Protocol, suggested by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 22 January 2020, and make recommendations to Full Council for its addition to the Council's constitution.

Minutes – Audit and Standards Committee – 21 May 2020

Mr Evans explained that the Planning Committee had agreed the proposed protocol, attached as appendix 1 to the report, with the addition of a note to explain the different processes that are available in determining an appeal. Furthermore, the protocol would read alongside the existing Officer/Member Code of Conduct and the Officer/Member Protocol.

Following a full discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend to Council that the Planning Appeals Protocol be incorporated into the Council's constitution.

Audit Information Items

5. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Authorisations

In line with the requirements to report on a quarterly basis regarding the use of covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources, the information report advised that in the quarter to May 2020, there had been no authorised operations.

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