



MINUTES

Audit and Standards Committee

Date:	Monday, 28 October 2019
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor John Singleton JP (Chairman) Councillor Ed Nash (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Delma Collins, Peter Collins, Ellie Gaunt, Brian Gill, Paul Hayhurst, Sally Nash-Walker.
Other Members Present:	Councillors Susan Fazackerley, Karen Buckley, Liz Oades, Elaine Silverwood
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning, Ian Curtis, Paul O'Donoghue, Lyndsey Lacey- Simone
Other Attendees Present:	Mr Mark Towers, Deputy Monitoring Officer Mr Mike Dudfield, Investigating Officer

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.

Tracy Manning withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of item 7.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 19 September 2019 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitution was reported under Council Procedure Rule 23 (c):

Councillor Paul Hayhurst for Councillor Paula Brearley.

Audit Decision Items

4. Mid-Year Prudential indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2019/2020

The Chairman invited Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Financial Officer, to present the mid-year prudential indicators and treasury management monitoring report. In doing so, he explained that the report had been prepared in line with the recommendations of CIPFA's (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accounts) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011.

Mr O'Donoghue outlined the background to the preparation of the report which included an update on the UK economy/outlook; interest rate forecast; regulatory updates; debt management and investment strategy arrangements together with details of compliance with prudential indicators.

Included as appendices to the report were: Glossary of Treasury Terms & Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators Frequently Asked Questions; Prudential Indicators together with a copy of the Exiting Investment and Debt Portfolio Summary. Mr O'Donoghue expanded on each item at the meeting.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions. These included: the level of interest currently being paid for borrowing and matters associated with the affordable borrowing limit generally (table 4 refers). Mr O'Donoghue addressed each point.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED: To recommend to Council that the Prudential Indicators and the Investment Limits as detailed in Appendix B of the report be approved.

Standards Decision Items

5. Exclusion of the Public

Members of the committee were invited to consider passing a resolution excluding the public from the meeting for the consideration of items 6 and 7 below in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This was on the grounds that the business to be discussed was exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 (Information relating to an individual and Information which was likely to reveal the identity of the individual) of Schedule 12A of the Act.

It was RESOLVED to exclude the public.

6. Issue Raised with the Monitoring Officer: Case 1

Members considered the report of Mark Towers, the Investigatory Officer, on Case 1 following an introduction to the matter by Tracy Manning, Monitoring Officer.

Following consideration of this matter the Committee RESOLVED: To accept the Investigator's conclusion that the relevant Council Code of Conduct had been breached and forward the matter to the Town/Parish Council concerned with the recommendation that the Council organises a training session covering the provisions of its Code of Conduct.

7. Issue Raised with the Monitoring Officer: Case 2

Members considered the report of Mike Dudfield, the Investigatory Officer, on Case 2 following an introduction to the matter by Ian Curtis, acting on behalf of the Monitoring Officer in this matter.

During the course of the debate, it was suggested that an advice note and/ or training be offered to both borough and parish/ town council members on the 'do's and don'ts' of being a councillor. An undertaking to do this was given at the meeting.

Following a discussion the Committee RESOLVED: to report to the Clerk of the Town/Parish Council concerned of the investigator's conclusion that the member in Case 2 was not acting in an official capacity at the time of the complaint.

Fylde Council copyright [2019]

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.