



MINUTES

Audit and Standards Committee

Date:	Thursday, 25 April 2019.
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor John Singleton JP (Chairman) Councillor David Donaldson (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Delma Collins, Graeme Neale, Louis Rigby.
Officers Present:	Tracy Manning and Tara Walsh.

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 7 March 2019 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

Audit Decision Items:

4. Annual Governance Statement

The Chairman invited Tracy Manning, Director of Resources to present. In doing so, she explained that preparation and publication of an annual governance statement was necessary to comply with Regulation 4(3) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which requires authorities to prepare a statement of internal control in accordance with the CIPFA/ SOLACE guidance.

Ms Manning went on to explain that the Corporate Governance Group, having met to review assessment of the Council's governance against the Local Code, had identified a number of minor issues to be addressed over the coming year, these were included in Annual Governance Statements which had been attached as appendix 1 to the report.

An action plan had been incorporated within the statement and attendees were informed that progress reports would be presented to the committee in September 2019.

Following questions and discussion, the committee RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

5. Local Government Ethical Standards Review

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Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, presented the report. In doing so, she explained that following a year-long review and consultation, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) had recently published a report on local government ethical standards.

Ms Manning went on to explain that CSPL had made a number of recommendations to government which were included on page 14 of the agenda. In addition, 15 best practice recommendations for councils to consider had been attached as an appendix to the report.

Following a full discussion, the committee RESOLVED to recommend that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee, reviews the best practice recommendations with a view to a report being brought back before the Audit and Standards Committee for its consideration in September 2019.

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