

MINUTES of a meeting of the AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2019

Present: Councillor V Richichi (Chairman)

Councillors C C Benfield, D Bigby, J Clarke, L A Gillard, M D Hay and S Sheahan

Officers: Mrs T Bingham, Miss A Wright and Mrs L Marron

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Harrison, S Gillard and M B Wyatt.

**14. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2019.

In relation to minute number 6 – Annual Statement of Accounts, Councillor C Benfield asked if his comment regarding making Section 106 Agreements publically available had been addressed. The Head of Finance agreed to report to Councillor C Benfield outside of the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor V Richichi, seconded by Councillor J Clarke and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**16. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Audit Manager presented the report to Members.

In response to a question from Councillor S Sheahan in relation to Charnwood Borough Council joining the shared service agreement, the Audit Manager stated that the practical implication was staff capacity. She reassured members that the delivery of services to Charnwood Borough Council would not start until a new Senior Auditor was in post. There was a benefit of the addition of another authority to the agreement in that there would be increased resilience once the Senior Auditor had been appointed, as there would be another qualified officer. In response to a further question from Councillor S Sheahan, the Audit Manager confirmed that NWLDC would be the lead partner.

In response to a question from Councillor D Bigby in relation to the shared services agreement, the Audit Manager confirmed that the current aim of the agreement was to increase resilience in the short term by growing the team but there could be commercial opportunities in the future.

A general discussion was had regarding a number of audit recommendations detailed within the report.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

Chairman's initials

RESOLVED THAT:

The report be noted.

## **17. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Finance Team Manager presented the report to Members.

A discussion was had on the comparable liquidity figures within the benchmarking table. The Head of Finance explained that NWLDC predominantly lent to other authorities and this would earn more money in the long term than having funds sat within bank accounts.

In response to a question from Councillor C Benfield, the Head of Finance stated that following the motion to council in relation the impact of climate change, work was being undertaken to address the issue and Members would receive further information in due course.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

The report be approved.

## **18. CORPORATE RISK UPDATE**

The Head of Finance presented the report to members.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

The report be noted.

## **19. COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

The following items were added to the plan:

- Progress of Improvements Identified through Annual Governance Review 2018/19
- Accounting Policies and Materiality 2019/20
- Internal Audit Annual Plan March 2020

The Audit Manager informed Members that a briefing for all Committee Members would be held prior to the consideration of the Internal Audit Annual Plan at the meeting on 18 March 2020.

Members were reminded of the training scheduled on 14 November and 29 January. The Head of Finance offered to hold an additional session for Members that were not available for the scheduled dates.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

The committee work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.50 pm

Chairman's signature