

Minutes

Audit and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 25th July, 2022

Attendance

Cllr Tanner (Chair)	Cllr Mrs Murphy
Cllr Hirst (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Sankey
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Slade
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Wagland
Cllr Haigh	

Apologies

Substitute Present

Also Present

Officers Present

Steve Summers	-	Strategic Director
Jacqueline Mellaerts	Van	Corporate Director (Finance & Resources)
Greg Rubins	-	BDO, Internal Audit
Alistair Greer	-	Principal Accountant (Financial Reporting)
Zoe Borman	-	Governance and Member Support Officer

LIVE BROADCAST

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

104. Apologies for Absence

No apologies had been received.

105. Minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Fulcher advised she had asked at the last meeting regarding Item 8, One Team Transformation Programme, that as staffing issues should not be the responsibility of this Committee, clarity be provided, and more time be given to consider the decision.

Officers advised the s113 Agreement allows both authorities to share their staff between them and is a legal construct within the document to allow one authority to act for the other. It is the s113 Agreement which is relevant to this Committee.

The request to defer was denied.

The Chair requested this be reflected in the previous Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th July 2022 were agreed subject to the above amendment.

Mrs Van Mellaerts updated Members as to Minute 68 on Page 6, Audit Results Report 2020/21. The audit is progressing and there had been no material amendments which needed to be brought back to this Committee. However, external auditors are concluding their audit and working through their work programmes with sign off of the accounts aiming to be by the middle of August. The Committee will be kept informed.

106. Internal audit progress report 2021-22

This report is intended to inform the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of progress made against the 2021/22 internal audit plan.

The following report has been finalised since the last Committee:

- Section 106 agreement (Including affordable housing)
(Limited/Moderate)

Mr Rubins was present at the meeting and summarised the report.

Members raised concerns regarding s106 Agreements, and requested that officers share with Members a register of the agreements.

Mr Rubins advised Members that internal audit would be following up their recommendations and subsequently reporting, which will provide Members with assurance in relation to s106 monies.

Members questioned how the actual delivery figure over the last 5 years of affordable housing of 10.7% was calculated. Mrs Van Mellaerts said she would come back to Members on this following consultation with Mr Drane.

The Chair requested that the Strategic Housing Director, Mr Winslet, attend the next meeting to provide further clarification on matters arising from this report including the recruitment of the Policy & Enabling Officer post.

Following a full discussion, Members noted the report.

107. Annual internal audit opinion 2021-22

This report was intended to inform the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of the annual internal audit opinion.

Overall, Internal audit have been able to provide moderate assurance that there is a sound system of internal control, designed to meet the Council's objectives and that controls are being applied consistently.

Members thanked officers for their hard work and notes the report.

108. Internal audit plan 2022-23

This report outlines the Internal Audit Summary outline Plan for 2022/23, included in Appendix A.

Following discussion a motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Tanner and **SECONDED** by Cllr Hirst to approve the recommendations in the report.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to:

Approve the Internal Audit Summary Outline Plan 2022/23 attached in Appendix A

Delegated authority is given to the Section 151 Officer to amend the plan in year as necessary to deliver the contract.

Reasons for Recommendation

To approve the work programme for the Internal Audit Plan 2022/23.

109. Draft statement of accounts 2021-22 (with AGS)

This report presented the Council's unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2021/22, the accounts will be signed by the Corporate Director (Finance & Resources) by 31st July 2022 in line with requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2015. They will be published on the Council's website and will be subject to public inspection under section 26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Tanner and **SECONDED** by Cllr Hirst to approve the recommendations in the report.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:

To note the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 in Appendix A.

That the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 attached in Appendix B is endorsed and signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

Reasons for Recommendation

The approval of the unaudited Accounts contributes to effective financial management and governance and meets statutory requirements.

110. Work programme

The Constitution requires that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee agrees its Scrutiny work programme at each meeting of the Committee. This report provides an update of the current scrutiny work programme and is set out in Appendix A.

Following discussion, a motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Tanner and **SECONDED** by Cllr Hirst to approve the recommendations in the report.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that:

The Committee considers and agrees the 2022/23 Scrutiny work programme as set out in Appendix A with any additions agreed by the committee at the meeting.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Constitution requires that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee agrees its Scrutiny work programme at each meeting of the Committee.

111. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting concluded at 19:30