



Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Thursday 30 September 2021 (commencing at 2.00 pm)**

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Philip Owen (Chairman) **A**
Nigel Moxon (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler
Steve Carr **A**
Neil Clarke MBE
John Cottee
Errol Henry JP

Michael Payne **A**
Helen-Ann Smith
Roger Upton
Elizabeth Williamson **A**

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Chris Barnfather for Councillor Philip Owen
Councillor Pauline Allan for Councillor Michael Payne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Glen Bicknell
Heather Dickinson
Rob Disney
Keith Ford
Kaj Ghattaora
Jo Kirkby
Simon Lacey
Nigel Stevenson
Jo Toomey
Marjorie Toward

Chief Executive's Department

Sue Batty

Adult Social Care and Health Department

Gareth Johnson

Place Department

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Gregory
Zack Francis

Grant Thornton (external auditors)

CHAIRING ARRANGEMENTS

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 June 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Steve Carr - other reasons
- Councillor Philip Owen – medical reasons
- Councillor Michael Payne – other reasons
- Councillor Elizabeth Williamson- other reasons

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO) DECISIONS – JUNE TO AUGUST 2021

Jo Kirkby, Team Manager, Complaints and Information introduced the report which informed Members of the latest complaint outcomes from the LGSCO. Sue Batty, Service Director – Ageing Well Community Services responded to questions on the decisions relating to Adult Social Care.

RESOLVED: 2021/032

- 1) That detailed work is undertaken with the Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health Department in relation to identifying core issues in complaints that are not resolved at the earliest point.
- 2) That no further actions were required in relation to the issues contained within the report.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO)

Jo Kirkby, Team Manager, Complaints and Information introduced the report which summarised Nottinghamshire County Cases considered by the LGSCO over the previous financial year.

RESOLVED: 2021/033

That no actions were required in relation to the issues contained within the report.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Glen Bicknell, Senior Accountant, introduced the report by means of a presentation, accompanied by a presentation from the external auditors, John Gregory and Zack Francis, responding to Members' comments and queries as appropriate.

RESOLVED: 2021/034

- 1) That the letters of representation be approved.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, to approve the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 on completion of all external audit work.

7. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Rob Disney, Group Manager, Assurance, introduced the report which sought approval for the updated risk register and provided an update on corporate risk management.

RESOLVED: 2021/035

- 1) That the updated corporate risk register be approved.
- 2) That further updates and proposals for a refresh of the Council's approach to risk management and suggested training for the Committee be submitted to future meetings.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT TERM 2 PLAN 2021-22

Rob Disney, Group Manager, Assurance, introduced the report which sought Members' views on Term 2 of the Internal Audit Plan 2021-22.

During discussions, it was underlined that Members could refer potential audit topics to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or the Group Manager, Assurance.

RESOLVED: 2021/036

That the planned coverage of Internal Audit's work in Term 2 of 2021/22 was appropriate to deliver assurance to the Committee in priority areas.

9. ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2020/21

Rob Disney, Group Manager, Assurance, introduced the report which sought feedback on the latest annual report. Gareth Johnson, CPU and Enforcement Manager gave further information about activity to counter the misuse of Blue Badges and responded to Members' comments and queries.

RESOLVED: 2021/037

- 1) That the contents of the Annual Fraud Report 2020-21 be noted.
- 2) That the planned arrangements for tackling fraud and corruption were adequate.

10. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WAIVERS 2020-21

Kaj Ghattaora, Group Manager, Procurement, introduced the report which provided details of waiver requests received during the last financial year and those specifically relating to the COVID-19 response.

RESOLVED: 2021/038

That the approach to Financial Regulations waivers detailed in the report and the continued progress in keeping waivers to a minimum be supported.

11. BROXTOWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Heather Dickinson introduced the report which sought approval for the proposed position in response to this review being led by Broxtowe Borough Council.

RESOLVED: 2021/039

That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit a letter (as appended to the Committee report) as a courtesy response to the first phase of consultation in respect of Broxtowe Borough Council's Community Governance Review, reserving the County Council's position for any formal response until phase 2 of the consultation.

12. UPDATE ON USE OF RESOURCES BY COUNCILLORS

Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services introduced the report which provided the latest annual update on use of resources by Councillors and their support officers.

RESOLVED: 2021/040

- 1) That no further information or actions were required in relation to the expenditure during the period April 2020 – March 2021.
- 2) That all County Councillors be reminded of best practice and the need to avoid out of contract charges for ICT equipment.
- 3) That an itemised breakdown of out of contract charges for ICT equipment be included in future annual monitoring reports.

13. WORK PROGRAMME

In response to a query about the Committee's role in considering the new Executive Arrangements of governance during their ongoing development, it was clarified that the cross-party working group would lead on that work, with County Councillors expected to receive updates via their Group representative on that body.

RESOLVED: 2021/041

That no changes were required to the work programme.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN