



Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 30 November 2022 (commencing at 10.30am)**

membership

COUNCILLORS

Philip Owen (Chairman)
Johno Lee (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler
Errol Henry JP - Apologies
Andy Meakin
Michael Payne
Sue Saddington

Helen-Ann Smith – Apologies
Nigel Turner
Roger Upton
Daniel Williamson - Absent

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Jim Creamer for Councillor Errol Henry
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan for Councillor Helen-Ann Smith

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sue Batty	Adult Social Care and Health
Ainsley McDonnell	
Glen Bicknell	Chief Executive's Department
Heather Dickinson	
Richard Elston	
Catherine Haywood	
Simon Lacey	
Nigel Stevenson	
Marjorie Toward	
Karen Hughman	Children and Families
Irene Kakoullis	
Peter McConnochie	

Andrew Smith	Grant Thornton, External Auditors
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1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 September 2022, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHANGE TO MEMBERSHIP

The Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Nigel Turner in place of Councillor Bethan Eddy.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Henry (other reasons)
- Councillor Smith (other reasons)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

5. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (MAY 2022 TO JUNE 2022)

The report set out information about five complaints against the Council where fault was found by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of officers and seek assurance about actions put in place from the relevant departments regarding those complaints.

RESOLVED: 2022/043

That the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be noted and that lessons learned and actions taken in response to the findings be welcomed.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22

The report set out information around the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 and Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the External Auditor around their progress.

RESOLVED: 2022/044

That the Committee delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, to approve the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 on completion of all external audit work.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS TERM 1 2022-23 AND TERM 3 PLAN 2022-23

RESOLVED: 2022/045

That the outcome of the Internal Audit work carried out in Term 1 be noted and the planned coverage of Internal Audit's work in Term 3 of 2022/23 be progressed to help deliver assurance to the Committee in priority areas

8. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECCOMENDATIONS

RESOLVED: 2022/046

- 1) That the contents of the reports and the progress that ha been made against the Internal Audit recommendation be noted

- 2) That a further progress report and an update on the actions outstanding be included in the next 6-monthly review

9. GOVERNANCE UPDATE

RESOLVED:2022/047

That actions taken to update the governance issues raised are noted

10. OFFICER CODE OF CONDUCT, INTERESTS, GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER

RESOLVED 2022/048

- 1) That the amended Officer Code of Conduct and online form procedure to staff to declare interests, gifts and/or hospitality be noted
- 2) That the amended Officer Code of Conduct and the amendment of Section Eleven of the Constitution be recommended to Full Council.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2022/49

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11:33am.

CHAIRMAN