

Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 12 June 2019 (commencing at 1.00 pm)**

membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Bruce Laughton (Chairman)
Andy Sissons (Vice-Chairman)

Nicki Brooks
Steve Carr **A**
Kate Foale
John Handley
Errol Henry JP

Rachel Madden
Phil Rostance
Keith Walker
Gordon Wheeler

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

John Longdon

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mark McCall
Paul Johnson

Adult Social Care and Public Health

Marion Clay
Steve Edwards

Children and Families Department

Glen Bicknell
Heather Dickinson
Rob Disney
Keith Ford
Michael Fowler
Kaj Ghattaora
Simon Lacey
Nigel Stevenson
Marjorie Toward
James Ward

Chief Executive's Department

Shane Grayson

Place Department

1. CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**RESOLVED: 2019/031**

That the appointment by Full Council on 16 May 2019 of Councillor Bruce Laughton as Chairman and Councillor Andy Sissons as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2019-20 municipal year be noted.

2. MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: 2019/032

That the following membership of the Committee for the 2019-20 municipal year be noted:- Councillors Bruce Laughton, Andy Sissons, Nicki Brooks, Steve Carr, Kate Foale, John Handley, Errol Henry JP, Rachel Madden, Phil Rostance, Keith Walker and Jonathan Wheeler.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 1 May 2019, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

The following temporary change of membership for this meeting only was noted:-

- Councillor Gordon Wheeler had replaced Councillor Jonathan Wheeler.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None

6. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Rob Disney, Group Manager Assurance, introduced the report which outlined progress with the implementation of agreed management actions in response to Internal Audit recommendations.

Shane Grayson, Business Service Manager, updated the committee on progress with the issue of checks of consolidated invoices for catering at County Hall and Trent Bridge House.

Marion Clay, Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills provided an update on the recommendations about school expansion and pupil place planning. The Chairman requested a further update on this issue in a year's time.

Paul Johnson, Service Director – Strategic Commissioning, Adult Access and Safeguarding, gave an update on the recommendations about direct payments.

Kaj Ghattora, Group Manager, Procurement, and Michael Fowler, Category Manager, Public Health updated the Committee on the issues relating to procurement of adult social care suppliers and providers.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the officers on the progress so far achieved.

RESOLVED: 2019/033

That the progress detailed in the report be noted.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO)
DECISIONS MARCH 2019 – APRIL 2019

Heather Dickinson, Group Manager, Legal, Democratic and Complaints, introduced the report which detailed the LGSCO decisions received in this latest monitoring period.

RESOLVED: 2019/034

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

8. PRESENTATION ON 2018/19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND
STATUS OF EXTERNAL AUDIT

Glen Bicknell, Senior Accountant, gave a presentation which outlined the background to the Statement of Accounts. The presentation included the approach taken as part of the new 'Telling the Story' initiative and the various elements of the statement including the Movement in Reserves statement; the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure account; the balance sheet; the notes to the accounts and the accounting policies.

RESOLVED: 2019/035

That the contents of the presentation be noted, with no further actions required at this stage.

9. NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
GOVERNANCE

Rob Disney, Group Manager Assurance, introduced the report which outlined the findings of this recent review.

RESOLVED: 2019/036

That the implications for Nottinghamshire County Council of the findings of the National Audit Office Review of Local Government Governance be noted, with no subsequent changes required to the Council's governance framework.

10. ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2018/19

Simon Lacey, Audit Team Leader, introduced the report which sought the Committee's views on the Council's latest Annual Fraud Report.

RESOLVED: 2019/037

That the contents of the Annual Fraud Report for 2018-19 be noted and the adequacy of the Council's current and planned arrangements for tackling fraud and corruption be confirmed.

11. CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA) STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Rob Disney, Group Manager Assurance, introduced the report which highlighted CIPFA's updated statement on this role in public service organisations and underlined opportunities for improvement in arrangements and practice at Nottinghamshire County Council.

RESOLVED: 2019/038

That the actions identified as opportunities for improvement within the report be implemented.

12. UPDATE ON USE OF THE COUNCILLORS' DIVISIONAL FUND

Keith Ford, Team Manager – Democratic Services, introduced the report which presented Committee with a six monthly update on the use of the Councillor's Divisional Fund for the period 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019.

RESOLVED: 2019/039

- 1) That the CDF expenditure for the period October 2018 – March 2019 be noted with no further actions required.
- 2) That the outcomes of the ongoing audit exercise and progress with the development of the new electronic system be included in the next update report to Committee.

13. RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION APPEALS PANEL MEMBERS

Keith Ford, Team Manager – Democratic Services, introduced the report which requested approval for an annual payment to reimburse these volunteers for printing costs arising from their role in education appeals.

RESOLVED: 2019/040

That Education Appeal Panel Members be permitted to submit claims for an annual payment of £30 to cover any printing costs, with a second payment of £30 also permitted for those Panel Members where it can be evidenced that they have incurred further printing costs as a result of a high number of appeals involving late papers attended in a particular year.

14. REVIEW OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Heather Dickinson, Group Manager, Legal, Democratic and Complaints, introduced the report which set out the proposed scope, resource implications and proposed timescales of the planned review.

During discussions, officers clarified that a programme of work would be developed around the review, with the Committee engaged on specific relevant issues as the work developed.

RESOLVED: 2019/041

That the scope of the constitution review, as set out in paragraphs 5-9 of the committee report, be agreed.

15. WORK PROGRAMME

During discussions, Members requested that an item on the collection and distribution of Section 106 monies from property developers be added to the work programme. Officers agreed to seek clarification as to the most relevant committee to consider this issue.

RESOLVED: 2019/042

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 2.42 pm.

CHAIRMAN