

Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Thursday 11 November 2021 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Gordon Wheeler for Councillor Richard Butler
Councillor Jim Creamer for Councillor Errol Henry
Councillor Reg Adair for Councillor Roger Upton
Councillor David Martin for Councillor Elizabeth Williamson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Disney	Chief Executive's Department
Richard Elston	
Keith Ford	
Patrick Hobson	
Emily Jackson	
Jo Kirkby	
Simon Lacey	
Keith Palframan	
Nigel Stevenson	
Sarah Stevenson	
Marjorie Toward	

Sue Batty Adult Social Care and Health Department

Laurence Jones Children, Families and Cultural Services Department

OTHER ATTENDEES

John Gregory Grant Thornton (external auditors)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 September 2021, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Richard Butler – other reasons
- Councillor Steve Carr - other reasons
- Councillor Errol Henry – other reasons
- Councillor Roger Upton – 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 – SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 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 and Laurence Jones, Temporary Service Director, Commissioning and Resources responded to comments and questions from Members in relation to the Adult Social Care and Children and Young People Services findings respectively.

RESOLVED: 2021/042

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

5. AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2020-21

RESOLVED: 2021/043

That, in light of Members' comments on the contents of the External Audit Report, no further actions were required at this stage.

6. DECISION TO OPT INTO THE NATIONAL SCHEME FOR AUDITOR APPOINTMENT MANAGED BY PUBLIC SECTOR AUDIT APPOINTMENTS THE 'APPOINTING PERSON'

RESOLVED: 2021/044

That Full Council be recommended to accept Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

7. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Sarah Stevenson, Group Manager, Business Services Centre and Employee Services Centre, outlined the key issues relating to the priority 1 actions relating to pensions administration – reconciliation of payments and responded to comments and questions from Members.

In response to Members' seeking progress on the overdue priority 1 actions relating to staff declarations of interests and to authorisation of overtime and timesheets, the Chairman confirmed that, in line with the agreed process, overdue priority actions would be reported to committee if still overdue after six months.

RESOLVED: 2021/045

That, following Members' consideration, no further and more detailed updates in progress from relevant managers were required at this stage.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS TERM 1 2021-22 AND TERM 3 PLAN 2021-22

During this agenda item, the Chairman welcomed Emily Jackson and Patrick Hoban, Internal Auditor apprentices, to the Committee.

RESOLVED: 2021/046

- 1) That no further actions or follow-up reports were required at this stage.
- 2) That the planned coverage of Internal Audit's work in Term 3 of 2021/22 be progressed to help deliver assurance to the Committee in priority areas.

9. GOVERNANCE UPDATE

RESOLVED: 2021/047

That no additional actions or further reports were required at this stage.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2021/048

That no changes were required to the work programme.

The meeting closed at 2.51 pm.

CHAIRMAN