

Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday 11 September 2019 (commencing at 10.30 am)

**membership**

Persons absent are marked with `A`

**COUNCILLORS**

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

Nicki Brooks  
Steve Carr  
Kate Foale  
John Handley  
Errol Henry JP

Rachel Madden  
Phil Rostance  
Keith Walker  
Jonathan Wheeler

**OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE**

John Longdon

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cherry Dunk Adult Social Care and Health Department  
Paul Johnson

Colin Pettigrew Children, Families and Cultural Services  
Katie Marsden Department

Glen Bicknell Chief Executive's Department  
Adam Crevald  
Heather Dickinson  
Rob Disney  
Keith Ford  
Marjorie Toward

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Lorraine Noak Grant Thornton (External Auditors)  
Hamze Samatar

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 July 2019, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None

### **4. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN (LGSCO) DECISIONS MAY 2019 – JUNE 2019**

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

Paul Johnson, Service Director – Strategic Commissioning, Adult Access and Safeguarding and Cherry Dunk, Group Manager – Quality and Market Management, responded to Members' queries on the complaints relating to adult social care.

Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director – Children, Families and Cultural Services and Katie Marsden – Service Manager, Occupational Therapy and Personalisation, presented further background information and responded to Members' queries and concerns on the complaint relating to home adaptations and the disabled facility grant. Members agreed that the outcomes of the review being undertaken by the Corporate Director into this complaint should be fed back to Children and Young People's Committee in detail, with an overview update also submitted to Governance and Ethics Committee.

#### **RESOLVED: 2019/054**

That the outcomes of the review into the issues relating to the complaint about home adaptations and the disabled facility grant be submitted in detail to Children and Young People's Committee and an overview update be submitted to Governance and Ethics Committee.

### **5. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMY TRUSTS – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

Nigel Stevenson, Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement, introduced the report which sought approval for the proposed response to the Department for Education consultation on the financial transparency of local authority maintained schools and academy trusts.

#### **RESOLVED: 2019/055**

- 1) That the proposed response to the government consultation on the financial transparency of local authority maintained schools be approved.
- 2) That no further actions were required.

### **6. UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE CYBER SECURITY AND INFORMATION RISK GUIDANCE FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES**

Adam Crevald, Group Manager Design (ICT) introduced the report which provided an assessment of the Council's current position and ongoing activity in relation to the advice for audit committees on cloud services provided by the National Audit Office.

**RESOLVED: 2019/056**

That a further update be submitted to the Committee in March 2020.

**7. INTERNAL AUDIT RESTRUCTURE PROPOSALS**

Rob Disney, Group Manager, Assurance, introduced the report which proposed amendments to the Internal Audit staffing structure to better meet current and future demand.

**RESOLVED: 2019/057**

That the revised staffing structure for Internal Audit, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

**8. QUARTERLY GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

Rob Disney, Group Manager, Assurance, introduced the report which provided an update on the Governance Action Plan for 2019/20. During discussions, Members requested that issues arising from the regular updates on Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman also be included within the Plan.

**RESOLVED: 2019/058**

That relevant issues arising from the regular updates on Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be included within the Governance Action Plan 2019/20.

**9. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER REFRESH**

Rob Disney, Group Manager, Assurance, introduced the report which sought approval for an updated version of the Internal Audit Charter.

**RESOLVED: 2019/059**

That the revised Internal Audit Charter be approved.

**10. EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2019/19 AND UPDATED AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT**

Lorraine Noak, Audit Manager for Grant Thornton, introduced the report and responded to Members' queries. In response to Members' queries raised during discussions, the following actions were agreed:-

- with regard to the ongoing objection to the Council's accounts an update on the outcomes of that objection would be submitted to a future meeting of Governance and Ethics Committee;
- the Pension Fund Annual Report was currently being completed and it was proposed to submit this to the Pension Fund Committee in November 2019;
- with regard to the issue of the Pension Fund investment in Fossil Fuels, this issue was covered within the Investment Beliefs detailed within the

Investment Strategy Statement, published on the Fund's website pages. Officers agreed to send a link to this document to Councillors for information, along with a copy of a response to recent correspondence from the Extinction Rebellion Nottingham group.

**RESOLVED: 2019/060**

That the proposed actions detailed above be agreed.

**11. THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

**RESOLVED: 2019/061**

That the appointment of Rob White to the role of Independent Person, for an initial period up to 21 May 2020, be endorsed and recommended to Full Council for approval.

**12. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED: 2019/062**

That the work programme be agreed, with no further changes required.

The meeting closed at 11.28 am.

CHAIRMAN