

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillor J W Handley, Chair

Councillors: E H Atherton
T P Brindley
J C Goold
S Kerry
R I Jackson
J C Patrick
K E Rigby

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J M Owen.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 were confirmed and signed.

37. ANNUAL REPORT ON GRANTS AND RETURNS WORK 2015/16

The Committee received the Annual Report on Grants and Returns Work 2015/16 issued by KPMG, the Council's external auditors.

38. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2016/17

A representative from the Council's auditors KPMG presented the Plan and provided members with an update on the progress in delivering its responsibilities.

39. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards required the Chief Audit and Control Officer to prepare an annual risk based audit plan.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Plan for 2017/18 be approved.

40. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee noted a report informing of the work of Internal Audit. Clarification was requested with regard to the financial appraisal of a prospective supplier for Wi-Fi in Stapleford. Members were assured that the Head of Property Services would have undertaken the necessary measures in the selection of a supplier.

41. FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION POLICY AND MONEY LAUNDERING PREVENTION POLICY

Members were informed that fraud and corruption were a serious and ongoing threat to the financial health of the public sector. It was estimated that almost £300 million each year was lost as a result of fraudulent acts both against and within public sector organisations. The Council acknowledged the significant negative impact fraudulent and corrupt acts could have on the Council, the delivery of its Corporate Plan and the services provided to residents.

RESOLVED that the updated Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy and the Money Laundering Prevention Policy be approved.

42. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Following the report to the last meeting of the Committee, and in accordance with the timescales set out in the Risk Management Strategy, the Strategic Risk Management Group met on 8 February 2017 to review the Strategic Risk Register.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Strategic Risk Register and the action plans to mitigate risks, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

43. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE – RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

The Committee received a summary of the responses given to the questionnaire that was circulated with full Council papers for the meeting of the 14 December 2016.

Members stated that the response to the questionnaire was poor and suggested that a possible reason was an overall satisfaction with the current system of governance.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken with regard to the questionnaire and the Committee consider any further issues that may arise on their individual merits.

44. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.