

# **GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**26 JUNE 2017**

Present: Councillor J W Handley, Chair

Councillors: E H Atherton  
D A Elliott (substitute)  
J C Goold  
S Kerry  
J M Owen  
P J Owen (substitute)  
J C Patrick  
K E Rigby

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T P Brindley, M J Crow and R I Jackson.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2017 were confirmed and signed.

3. **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Under the Council's constitution this Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the Council's internal control environment and for monitoring and making recommendations regarding the Council's corporate governance arrangements.

The Committee noted the Council's compliance with the code on delivering good governance in local government and was informed of action taken to develop and comply with statutory obligations regarding corporate governance and to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's published financial accounts for 2016/17. The following comments were amongst those raised:

- One in four people had responded to a survey stating their dissatisfaction with Council services. The Council should note this accordingly.
- The Action Plan required more detail including an indication of how outcomes would be achieved. Members were informed that a more detailed document would be regularly presented to them.

**RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement as shown in appendix 2 of the report be approved in principle for inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts as amended above.**

4. INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2016/17

In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors, the Chief Audit and Control Officer must deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report that can be used by the authority to inform its Annual Governance Statement.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Under the Council's Constitution and as part of the overall corporate governance arrangements the Committee noted a report informing of the work of Internal Audit.

6. 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 10 May 2017 to review the Strategic Risk Register. Members requested more detailed information in order to understand underlying causes of risks, in addition to lists being ranked in risk order.

**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.**

7. WORK PROGRAMME

**RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.**

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Chair