

Chairman - Councillor A M Loughran

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

I E Davies

D B Price

A J Perkins

R M Sutherland

Cabinet Member - Councillor K S Williamson - Resources Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs J Aupers

- Head of Governance

Mr S Baddeley

- Chief Internal Auditor

Mr S Turner

- Solicitor

Mr J Dean

- Democratic Services Officer

Also present:-

Mr R Percival

- Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton

AAC27 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2018, as published in Digest No 250, were submitted and signed.

AAC28 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R A James and Mr Alistair Welch, Head of Law and Administration.

AAC29 Certification Work for Stafford Borough Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

Considered the correspondence from Grant Thornton detailing the certification work carried out in respect of the Housing Benefit subsidy claim and the indicative fees for 2017/18.

Mr Richard Percival, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton highlighted the additional fee as set out on page 3 of the agenda, which was as a result of a number of errors identified from the certification work undertaken.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the correspondence be noted.

AAC30 Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Considered the report of Grant Thornton setting out progress made by the Council's external auditors in respect of delivering their responsibilities, summarising relevant emerging national issues and noting a number of challenge questions for the Committee to consider in light of said issues.

Mr Richard Percival, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton led Members through the report and made specific reference to progress of work as at March 2019, namely:-

- Financial Statements Audit
- Value for Money
- Other areas (Certification of claims and returns, Meetings and Events)

The Committee were also informed that the external auditor had now concluded their objection to the 2017/18 accounts.

Members requested a further update at the next meeting of the Committee in relation to license fees.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the report be received.

AAC31 External Audit Plan – Year Ending 31 March 2018

Considered the report of Grant Thornton detailing the Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Mr Richard Percival, Engagement Lead, Grant Thornton detailed the purpose of the report which provided an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council. Particular attention was drawn to significant risks and value for money arrangements.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the report be approved.

AAC32 Internal Audit Quarter 3 Report for 2018-19

Considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (V1 06/03/19) presenting the Internal Audit Quarter 3 report for 2018-19.

During his presentation, the Chief Internal Auditor confirmed that there were no areas of fundamental concern.

Members then voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Internal Audit Report for Quarter 3 for 2018-19 be noted.

AAC33 Internal Audit Plan for 2019-20

Considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (V2 06/03/19) presenting the Internal Auditor Plan for 2019-20.

The Chief Internal Auditor introduced the report, highlighting paragraphs 5.4, 5.7, 5.9, 5.12 and 5.18 for Members attention. The Committee were invited to raise any questions associated to the report, to which were subsequently addressed by Officers. Specific reference was made to:-

- Shared Service Audit - Housing Benefit
- Available Audit Resources 2019-20

Members then voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee.

AAC34 Work Programme – Audit and Accounts Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V2 07/03/19) presenting the Audit and Accounts Committee's work programme.

As this was the last meeting of the Committee of this Council term, the Chairman thanked everyone for their participation wished the Councillor K S Williamson a long and happy retirement.

Members then voted on the recommendation as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee the Work Programme be received, subject to the inclusion of the follow up report in relation to Minute No AAC30 - Audit Progress and Sector Update, at the 11 June 2019 meeting of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN