

AUDIT COMMITTEE

21 January 2014

(5.40 p.m.)

PRESENT:

Councillors Mosson (Chairman), Wilks (Vice-Chairman), Norman and Strachan

Mr C Knight and Ms P Moore

Officers in attendance - Jane Kitchen, Bal Nahal and Alison Swift

Also Present – Helen Edmonds and Grant Patterson (Grant Thornton)

(AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE was received from Councillor Warfield)

196 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest made.

197 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 17th September and 17th December 2013, as printed and previously circulated, were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

198 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2013:

Consideration was given to a report on the activity and performance of the Internal Audit Section for the period August 2013 to November 2013.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Progress Report for the period August 2013 to November 2013 as submitted be noted.

199 FRAUD AWARENESS UPDATE WITHIN THE COUNCIL:

Members were updated on the position of fraud awareness within the Council.

RESOLVED: (1) That the revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement, Strategy and Guidance Notes as submitted be approved.

(2) That the revised Whistle Blowing Policy as submitted be approved.

(3) That the progress on implementing the

actions from the Counter Fraud Checklist as submitted be noted.

(4) That the Council's Fraud Loss Profile as submitted be noted.

(5) That the formation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service to investigate welfare fraud across all benefits administered by DWP, HMRC and Local Authorities be noted.

(6) That the proposal in the Autumn Statement for extra funding over 2014-15 and 2015-16 to support new fraud investigator posts in Councils focussed on tackling corporate fraud be noted.

200 THE ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER:

Mr Grant Patterson of Grant Thornton informed Members that no significant issues arose from the audit of the Council's 2012-13 financial statements. Overall the external auditors are satisfied that in the short term the Council can deliver a balanced budget and is taking appropriate action to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and to identify medium term requirements and options.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Audit Letter be noted.

201 CERTIFICATION REPORT 2012/13

Consideration was given to the report of the External Auditors (Grant Thornton) on the certification of claims and returns for 2012/13. They certified two claims and returns for the financial year 2012/13 with certifiable values totalling £58 million.

RESOLVED: That the Certification of Claims and Returns for 2012/2013 be noted.

202 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

Members were updated on the Risk Management Strategy and the management of the Corporate Risk Register.

RESOLVED: That the actions being taken to implement the Risk Management Strategy and to manage the Council's most significant risks be noted.

203 REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

Consideration was given to the Annual Report on the Review of the Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED: That Members note the contents of the report on the Review of the Financial Regulations as submitted and recommend to Full Council approval of the latest set of Financial Regulations.

204 WORK PROGRAMME:

Members considered the Work Programme 2013/14.

RESOLVED: That following a request from the Director of Finance, Revenues & Benefits, the September meeting be moved to October.

(The Meeting closed at 6.42 pm)

CHAIRMAN