

Decisions of the Audit Committee

28 January 2014

Members Present:

Councillor Lord Palmer, OBE, BA, FCA (Chairman)

Councillor Mark Shooter (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Geof Cooke
Councillor Hugh Rayner

Councillor Sury Khatri BSc (Hons),
MSc (Lond)

Councillor Graham Old

Independent Members:

Richard Harbord

Debra Lewis

Members Absent:

Councillor Alex Brodtkin

1. **MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2013 be approved as a correct record.

2. **ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 2):**

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Mark Shooter and Mr Richard Harbord.

3. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 3):**

There were none.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 4):**

There were none.

5. **MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 5):**

There were none.

6. **INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT QUARTER 3 2013-14 UPDATE AND EXCEPTIONS REPORT (Agenda Item 6):**

The Head of Internal Audit introduced the report. The Committee discussed the report and asked questions to the relevant Director(s), or their representatives, on the audits that receive limited or no assurance reports. The Committee requested that information be provided to them on the process at the Council to ensure that when a contract novates / a supplier is taken over by a different legal entity, what the Council does to assure itself that the financial standing of the 'new' provider is sound. As the question was not within the

scope of the audit team officers agreed to inform the Committee through a note following the meeting.

RESOLVED – The Committee noted the progress against internal audit recommendations and work completed to date on the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2013-14 and high priority recommendations.

7. QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS (Agenda Item 7):

Paul Hughes of Grant Thornton LLP (External Auditors) gave a short verbal update and informed the Committee that the audit process is proceeding as planned and there are no other issues to report that were not already being considered on the agenda.

8. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2012/2013 (Agenda Item 8):

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer and also Mr Paul Hughes of Grant Thornton LLP introduced the report. At the request of the Chairman, Grant Thornton explained the additional audit fees that have arisen due to public questions on The Accounts. The actual amount of additional fees will need the approval of the Audit Commission.

RESOLVED - That the External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2012/2013 be accepted as a reasonable statement on the Council's position in respect of the Audit of the Accounts, Financial Performance, Value for Money and Financial Resilience.

9. GRANTS CERTIFICATION WORK REPORT 2012/2013 (Agenda Item 9):

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer and also Mr Paul Hughes of Grant Thornton LLP introduced the report.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the content of the report are noted.

(2) That the matters raised by the External Auditors relating to the grants submission and certification process be noted.

10. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 10):

There were none.

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm