

Decisions of the Audit Committee

6 November 2014

Members:-

Cllr Brian Salinger (Chairman)
Cllr Sury Khatri (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Anne Hutton
(Substituting for Councillor
Geof Cooke)
Councillor Kathy Levine

Councillor Arjun Mittra
Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg
Councillor Peter Zinkin

Independent Members (have no-voting rights)

Richard Harbord

The Chairman requested that it be placed on record the Committee's thanks to Debra Lewis, an Independent Member of the Audit Committee who had recently resigned her position, and Chidilim Agada, who had provided governance support to the Committee for a number of years and was leaving the council.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Agenda Item 1):

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 22 July 2014 be approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2014 be approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment of minute item 2 to record the voting on the item.

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

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Geof Cooke who had been substituted for by Councillor Anne Hutton.

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

Members declared the following interests:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Anne Hutton	7 – Quarter 2 Internal Audit Progress Report	Non pecuniary interest as Councillor Hutton is an Independent Member of the Fostering Panel

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 4):

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 5):

None.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 6):

None.

7. QUARTER 2 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (Agenda Item 7):

The Head of Internal Audit introduced the report. The Committee discussed the report and asked questions to the relevant Directors or their representatives on the audits that had received limited or no assurance reports.

The Committee requested that officers review the wording in the section of the report on Data Quality to improve clarity regarding the assessment of information against the six characteristics which collectively constitute the Council's definition of data quality.

The Committee requested that, in relation to the performance indicators on ' % of recommendations implemented' as set out in Appendix D (Internal Audit Effectiveness Indicators), the format is revised to include details of the total number of recommendations against the number of recommendations implemented as well as the % implemented.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the progress against internal audit recommendations and work completed to date on the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2014-15 and high priority recommendations.

8. CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD TEAM (CAFT) QUARTER 2 PROGRESS REPORT (Agenda Item 8):

The Assurance Assistant Director introduced the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9. COUNTER FRAUD FRAMEWORK REVIEW 2014 (Agenda Item 9):

The Assurance Assistant Director presented the report.

The Committee requested that in future amendments to the policies which comprise the Counter Fraud Framework be included in the agenda papers for the meeting and include tracked changes.

RESOLVED that the updates to the Counter Fraud Framework 2014 are approved.

10. EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS - VERBAL UPDATE (Agenda Item 10):

Paul Hughes of Grant Thornton LLP (External Auditors) gave a short verbal update. He advised the Committee that there were three objections to the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 which were expected to be resolved by the next meeting. The Committee noted that the development of the External Audit Plan for 2015/16 was in development.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

11. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 11):

With the consent of the Chairman, Councillor Khatri proposed that the Performance & Contract Management Committee be requested to review of the 70 KPI's associated with the Re Contract following on the Data Quality issue highlighted in the Internal Audit Q2 report.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the referral to the Performance & Contract Management Committee as detailed above.

The meeting finished at 9.15 pm