
AUDIT COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

23 September 2021
(Published on)

Item No.	Title
2	Declarations of Interest
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Vice Chair of the Committee noted the details of all Councillors' interests already declared in District, Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>Cllrs Caswell, Leyshon and Burridge-Clayton declared interests as recipients of pensions through the LGPS pension scheme.</p>
3	Minutes from the meeting held on 22 July 2021
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021 were accurate, and the Vice Chair signed them.</p>
4	Public Question Time
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that no questions or statements were received by the PQT deadline of 5:00 pm on Friday 17 September 2021.</p>
5	Advisory opinion audit update
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Director of Economic and Community Infrastructure (ECI) Operations was invited by the Vice Chair to present the Advisory Audit Follow Up Report on the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) Non-Opinion Audit of Highway Maintenance: Duplicate Payment Requests, as well as the Highway Maintenance Audit Committee – 23 September 2021 2 – Application for Payment Follow Up Report; and he noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update to the non-opinion audit that had been carried out earlier this year regarding the</p>

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	<p>actions that were identified by the auditor. The Vice Chair invited questions from the Committee, and during the consideration of the reports, issues/concerns were raised, questions were asked/answered, and further information was provided.</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Accepted the report and update, and the Vice Chair noted that the Committee would receive a further update on progress made against the action plan after the follow-up audit in 2022/23 is completed.</p>
6	Internal Audit update
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Vice Chair invited the Assistant Director of SWAP to present the regular internal audit report, which she noted was the first progress report of 2021/22, presented in an updated format to reflect the increasing complexity and volume of audit reporting. The key information for Members was highlighted, and it was explained that reports would now have standardised reporting on limited assurance audits, as well as follow-up audits, including summaries of the recommendations and their priority rating.</p> <p>The Vice Chair invited questions from the Committee, and during the consideration of the reports issues/concerns were raised, questions were asked/answered, and further information provided</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Accepted the report.</p>
7	External Audit update
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Vice Chair invited the Key Audit Partner of Grant Thornton to present the report. He noted that the report contained details of the progress at September 2021 of the Financial Statements audit, the Council audit, and the Pension Fund audit. The Council audit was in progress, and the external auditors were working to complete the audit in October and report to the Committee in November. Members heard that following the significant challenges encountered regarding the valuation of land and buildings, this year the external auditors would benefit from being able to access more robust evidence following significant improvements and proactive action by Officers.</p>

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8	Pension Fund Audit Findings Report
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Vice Chair invited the Key Audit Partner of Grant Thornton to present the report. He began by noting that it summarised the outcome of the audit work on the pension fund and said that assurance letters had been completed and would be issued. The rest of the audit was substantially complete, with just a few outstanding queries remaining, and he praised the diligence of the Officers in responding to queries from the external auditors, particularly the Service Manager-Investments.</p> <p>The Vice Chair invited questions from the Committee, and during consideration of the reports, issues/concerns were raised, questions were asked/answered, and further information was provided.</p> <p><i>The Audit Committee:</i></p> <p><i>Accepted the report.</i></p>
9	Risk Management update
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Strategic Manager for Finance Systems and Governance presented the report, which he noted was in a slightly different format and was a developing piece of work. He would welcome questions or comments either at the meeting or later in writing in order to improve the report. He noted that the management of most of the risk work was developing, e.g., the Zurich Municipal work with the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Audit Committee – 23 September 2021 9 Strategic Risk Management Group. He provided an overview of the risks for the quarter, referring to the tables in the report, and noted that two risks had been closed and been superseded by new risks, including successfully delivering the unitary council by 1 April 2023 and the increasing supply disruption, which was largely due to the effects of the pandemic impacting external markets.</p>

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	<p>The Vice Chair invited questions from the Committee, and during consideration of the reports, issues/concerns were raised, questions were asked/answered, and further information was provided.</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Accepted the report and requested that an update of the transparency matrix be brought to the next meeting.</p>
10	Committee Future Work Programme
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>In response to a question from Cllr Leyshon, the Vice Chair advised the Committee that there were two training sessions coming up: One on 21 October regarding IT and cybersecurity, and one on 18 November regarding the Statement of Accounts and journal issues.</p> <p>The Committee noted the work programme that listed future agenda items and reports.</p>
11	Any other urgent items of business
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>There were no other items of business.</p>