

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 18th January, 2017

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Davidson (Chair)
Councillors B Ayling, S Buckley (Vice-Chair), C Nevin, A Bright,
J Moyies, J Ware-Lane and B Arscott*

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: C Gamble, L Everard, J Chesterton, C Fozzard, A Langridge (BDO),
D Bonner, T MacGregor M Dineen, E Allen and Mr K Pandya

Start/End Time: 6.30 - 7.50 pm

632 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Garston (Substitute Cllr Arscott)

633 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Kash Pandya who had recently been appointed as the co-opted member to the Committee.

634 Declarations of Interest

(a) Councillor Davidson – Matters in relation to Southend Hospital – Southend Council appointed Governor to Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – Non-pecuniary interest

(b) Councillor Davidson – Matters in relation to South Essex Homes (SEH) – Non Executive Director, SEH - Non-pecuniary interest

(c) Councillor Nevin – Matters in relation to Southend Hospital – previous employee of Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – Non-pecuniary interest

(d) Councillor Arscott – Internal Audit Service Quarterly Performance Report – School governor, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary school/ Head teacher of Sacred Heart Primary School is safeguarding mentor/advisor for school governors – Non-pecuniary interest.

635 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2016

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

636 Corporate Risk Register 2016/17

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive presenting the updated Corporate Risk Register for 2016/17.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

On consideration of the report, Members requested the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to write to members of the Committee to clarify:

- Whether the Transport Asset Management Plan would include Council car parks.
- The proportion of the £12.9m European Regional Development funding for Growth Hub delivery (across the South East) that would be allocated to Southend.

Resolved:-

That the updated Corporate Risk Register for 2016/17, be noted.

637 Treasury Management Policy

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive presenting the Treasury Management Policy for 2017/18 comprising the following documents:

- Treasury Management Policy Statement for 2017/18;
- Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18;
- Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

On consideration of the report, the Director of Finance and Resources undertook to write to members of the Committee to confirm the total amount of funding held by the Council which had been secured through section 106 agreements.

Resolved:-

That the Treasury Management Policy for 2017/18, be endorsed

638 BDO: Progress Report to Those Charged with Governance

The Committee considered a report by the BDO external auditor on the progress made in delivering the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Annual Audit Plans.

Resolved:-

That the progress made in delivering the Annual Audit Plans for 2015/16 and 2016/17, be accepted.

639 BDO: Annual Audit Letter 2015/16

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive presenting the External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.

Resolved:-

That the Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16, be approved.

640 Internal Audit Service Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive updating Members on the progress made in delivering the Internal Audit Strategy for 2016/17.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

On consideration of the report, Members requested the Deputy Chief Executive (People) to write to members of the Committee to clarify why the recommendations arising from the school audit reviews had not been implemented by certain schools.

In referring to the internal audit reviews in relation to the social care IT management system (contract procurement/project implementation health check) and Section 75 Partnership Agreement Integrated Equipment Service, and in response to the outcome of such reviews, the Chairman requested that the Deputy Chief Executive (People) to prepare a progress report to the next meeting of the Committee and asked that the relevant officers be invited to attend.

Resolved:-

That the progress made in delivering the 2016/17 Internal Audit Strategy, be noted.

641 Counter Fraud & Investigation Services Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive on the progress made in delivering the Corporate Counter Fraud & Investigation Strategy for 2016/17.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:-

That the Counter Fraud & Investigation Directorate's performance to date, be noted.

642 Information Items

The Committee noted the following items :

- CIPFA Survey on Local Authority and Police Audit Committees
 - o Background to the Survey
 - o The Structure and Composition of Local Authority Audit Committees
 - o Training and Support
 - o Effectiveness
 - o Internal Audit and the Audit Committee

- CIPFA Better Governance Forum, Audit Committee Update, Helping Audit Committees to be Effective, Issue 21:
 - o The audit committee and internal audit quality
 - o Briefing on topical issues
 - o Audit committee training.

- Public Sector Audit Appointments, Annual Regulatory Compliance and Quality report for BDO, Audit Year 2015/16

Chairman: _____