

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 25th April, 2018

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Davidson (Chair)
Councillors H Boyd (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, A Bright, J Moyies,
G Phillips, C Willis and K Pandya

In Attendance: Mr J Chesterton, R Harris and L Everard, Ms K Lynch, Ms S
Houlden, Ms R Gill, Mr D Kleinbery and Mr G Bhambra.

Start/End Time: 6.30 - 8.20 pm

945 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry and Ware-Lane (no substitutes).

946 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th January 2018

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2018, be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

947 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Davidson – matters in relation to South Essex Homes – Disqualifying non-pecuniary interest (was able to participate in the debate and vote by virtue of the dispensation agreed by the Standards Committee at its meeting held on 28th February 2017).

948 Update on Progress with Housing Allocations

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) providing an update on progress following the audit report for Housing Allocations issued in November 2017, with a completion date of April 2017.

Members expressed concerns that little or no progress had been made against the management actions outstanding from the previous audit.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. In reference to the Developer costs for the Abris system the Director of Social Care and Housing agreed to provide the figures to the Committee.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

949 BDO Audit Plan 2018-19

The Committee considered a report of the BDO External Auditor presenting the External Auditor's Audit Plan for 2017/18.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by the BDO External Auditor and officers. In relation to an immaterial fraud investigation the officers advised that the outcome would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

In reference to the Use of Resources section the Committee commented that the budget gap/savings figures need to be articulated more clearly in the report.

Resolved:

That the External Auditor's Audit Plan for 2017/18, be noted.

950 BDO Progress Report

The Committee considered a report of the BDO External Auditor on progress in delivering the 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan.

Resolved:

That the progress made in delivering the Annual Audit Plan for 2017/18, be noted.

951 Counter Fraud Investigation Department Quarterly Status Report

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive on the progress made by the Counter Fraud & Investigation Directorate (CFID) in delivering the Counter Fraud Strategy and Work Programme for 2017/18.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. The Committee asked officers to include a summary of trends related to fraud for future reports and in reference to the policies and procedures the officers reported that the revisions were at an advanced stage and would be concluded in time for presentation to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved:

That the performance of the Counter Fraud and Investigation Directorate to date, be noted.

952 Internal Audit Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive on the progress made in delivering the Internal Audit Strategy for 2017/18.

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

Resolved:

1. That the progress made in delivering the 2017/18 Internal Audit Strategy, be noted.
2. That the amendments to the Audit Plan, be approved.

953 Internal Audit Charter Strategy and Audit Plan 2018-19

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive presenting the Internal Audit Charter with the supporting Strategy and Audit Plan 2018/19.

Resolved:

That the Internal Audit Charter, Strategy and Audit Plan for 2018/19, be approved.

954 Vote of Thanks

Members of the Committee thanked the Chair for the able way in which she had conducted meetings during the Municipal Year.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, also extended her thanks and appreciation to Linda Everard, Head of Internal Audit, for her hard work and advice over the years and wished her all the best for the future.

955 Information Items

The Committee received and noted the following information items:

- Audit Committee Update – Helping Audit Committees to be Effective, Issue 24, February 2018 and Issue 25, March 2018;
- Annual Fraud Indicator 2017 – Identifying the cost of fraud to the UK economy.

Chairman: _____