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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 22nd September, 2021

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Dent (Chair)
Councillors T Cox*, M Davidson*, K Evans, N Folkard, S George,
S Habermel, S Wakefield* and P Wexham and Mr K Pandya
(*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.)

In Attendance: Councillor K Buck
J Chesterton, A Barnes, E Allen and T Row

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 8.15 pm

356 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boyd (substitute: Councillor Davidson), Dear (substitute: Councillor Cox) and Shead (substitute: Councillor Wakefield).

357 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared at the meeting.

358 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 28th April, 2021

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 28th April 2021 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

359 Internal Audit Report: Better Queensway Highways Scheme

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Finance & Resources) that presented the findings from the internal audit work in relation to the questions and concerns raised by a group of Councillors about the highways scheme element of the Better Queensway regeneration development and the options for the underpass and roundabout.

The Committee asked a number of questions which were responded to by the Council's Head of Internal Audit.

The Committee took the opportunity to thank the Head of Internal Audit for his engagement and the hard work undertaken by his team in preparing a comprehensive report.

Resolved:

1. That the findings of the internal audit work (outlined at section 4 of the report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) and reported in full at Appendix A of the submitted report) be noted and that the recommendations set out in the internal audit report at Appendix A be endorsed and that a report on progress be submitted to the Audit Committee for consideration in April 2022.
2. That the report and recommendations of the Committee be referred to the Place Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its special meeting taking place on 12th October 2021.
3. That the future Minutes of the meetings of the Better Queensway Programme Board be regularly submitted to The Shareholder Board for information.
4. That the powers delegated to Officers by Cabinet in relation to the Better Queensway regeneration project should cease (although for the avoidance of doubt powers delegated to Officers in Part 3 Schedule 3 of the Constitution and the SO46 procedure in Part 4a shall continue to apply in appropriate circumstances).

Chair: _____