

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 30th September, 2015

Place: Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea

Present: Councillor Betson (Chairman),
Councillors Ayling, Courtenay, Davidson,
*Flewitt, McMahon, Nevin and Stafford
Mr R Everitt (Co-opted Member)

* Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31)

In Attendance: S Holland, J Chesterton, I Ambrose, L Everard, E Allen, J Denman, J Ruffle, S Houlden, S Baker, P Geraghty, Z Ali, S Hasty, E Cook, C Gamble, L Clampin (BDO), A Langridge (BDO) and R Carte (BDO)

Start/End Time: 18.30/20.25

**** **Part I**

281 Apologies and substitutions.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Buckley (substitute: Councillor Flewitt) and Robertson.

282 Declarations of interest.

(a) Councillor Betson – Internal Audit Report Action Plans – Employee of HMRC dealing with international trade – non-pecuniary interest

(b) Councillor Betson – Internal Audit Services, Quarterly Performance Report – Board Member of South Essex Homes/Member of Fostering Panel – non-pecuniary interest

(c) Councillor Flewitt – Internal Audit Services, Quarterly Performance Report – Family and friends are tenants of South Essex Homes – non-pecuniary interest

(d) Councillor Flewitt – Internal Audit Report Action Plans (Parking Management Schemes) - PowerPoint submission in respect of this – non-pecuniary interest

(e) Councillor McMahon – BDO Annual Governance Report 2014/15 – Employer is, in part, under contract to the Council – non-pecuniary interest

283 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th June, 2015

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

284 BDO: Final Report to Those Charged with Governance 2014/15

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services on the results of the work completed to date for the 2014/15 financial year with regard to:

- The opinion on the Statement of Accounts.
- The conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion).

A representative of the External Auditor provided Members with an update on the status of the report. Members received a supplementary paper on the Auditor's review of the Council's use of resources.

Resolved:-

That the External Auditor's Annual Governance Report 2014/15, be accepted.

285 Statutory Statement of Accounts 2014/15

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services on the Statement of Accounts for 2014/15.

Resolved:-

That the Statement of Accounts 2014/15 be adopted and approved for publication.

286 Current Status of Internal Audit Report Action Plans

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services on the progress made to implement the actions in the Internal Audit reports in respect of the following:

- Accounts Receivable – Social Care Debt
- Parking Management Schemes
- Southend Adult Community College
- Payroll System

The relevant officers confirmed the position on each action in their action plan and responded to questions from Members.

Resolved:-

That the progress made with regard to the actions be noted.

287 BDO: Progress Report to Those Charged with Governance

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services outlining the progress made in delivering the 2014/15 Annual Audit Plan.

Resolved:-

That the progress made in delivering the Annual Audit Plan for 2014/15 be accepted.

288 Internal Audit Services, Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services on the progress made in delivering the Internal Audit Strategy for 2015/16.

Resolved:-

That the progress made in the delivering the 2015/16 Audit Strategy be noted.

289 Information Items

The Committee noted the following documents:-

- CIPFA Better Governance Forum, Audit Committee Update - Issue 17
- Protecting the English Public Purse 2015, Fighting Fraud against English Councils

Chairman: _____

