

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 27th April, 2022

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Dent (Chair)
Councillors I Shead (Vice-Chair), H Boyd, A Dear, K Evans,
N Folkard, S George, S Habermel, P Wexham and K Pandya

In Attendance: A Barnes, R Harris, S Dutton, C Fozzard and P Thomas (Deloittes –
Agenda Item 6 only).

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.40 pm

912 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence at this meeting.

913 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared at the meeting.

914 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

915 Housing Benefit Subsidy Assurance report 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the results of the reporting accountant's work on the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim assurance report for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Resolved:

That the results of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim assurance work for the year ended 31 March 2021, be noted.

916 Homes England Compliance Audit report 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the findings from the Homes England Compliance Audit work for 2021/22.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the findings from the Homes England Compliance Audit work for 2021/22 be noted.

917 Deloitte's External Audit Update report 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) providing an update on the status of the 2020/21 external audit of the Statement of Accounts and setting out the early headline planning intentions for the 2021/22 audit.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the update letter from Deloitte LLP, set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.

918 CIPFA's Financial Management Code

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) providing an update on the Council's annual self-assessment outcome against the expectations of CIPFA's Financial Management Code.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

1. That the Council's annual review against the expectations of CIPFA's Financial Management Code and the assurance that the Council's arrangements have been self-assessed as compliant, be noted and the action plan to deliver further improvements be endorsed.

2. That the Council's compliance status against CIPFA's Financial Management Code be kept under review and that the requirement for an annual self-assessment continues to be reported to the Committee every April, with a six-monthly update on any resulting action plan between each self-assessment.

919 Internal Audit Service Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) providing an update on the progress made in delivering the Internal Audit Strategy for 2021/22.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the progress made in delivering the 2021/22 Internal Audit Strategy be noted.

920 Counter Fraud & Investigation Team Quarterly Performance Report

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) providing an update on the progress made by the Counter Fraud and Investigation Team (CFIT) in delivering the Counter Fraud Strategy and Work Programme for 2021/22.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the performance of the Counter Fraud and Investigation Team over the last three months be noted.

921 Internal Audit Charter, Strategy and Plan for 2022/23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the Internal Audit Charter with the supporting Strategy and Audit Plan for 2022/23.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the Charter, Strategy and Audit Plan for 2022/23 be approved.

Chair: _____