

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Audit Committee

Date: Wednesday, 19th July, 2023

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Terry (Chair)
Councillors O Cartey (Vice-Chair), L Burton, P Collins, M Dent,
J Harland, M O'Connor, M Stafford and *A Dear

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: A Barnes, R Harris, S Dutton and C Thomas

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.40 pm

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Folkard (substitute: Cllr Dear).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26 April 2023

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 April 2023, be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Transformation Programme

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Strategy and Change) setting out the approach to the planned transformation programme across the Council.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the submitted report outlining the need for transformation, the approach to defining the transformation, the oversight mechanism and how delivery will be effected, as well as the risks and opportunities associated with the transformation programme, be noted and that a progress report be presented to the Committee at its meeting on 25th October 2023.

5 Counter Fraud & Investigation Annual Performance Report 2022/23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the Counter Fraud & Investigation Team (CFIT) Annual Report 2022/23 and updating on progress made by CFIT in delivering the Counter Fraud Strategy and Work Programme for 2023/24.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the performance of the Counter Fraud & Investigation Team over 2022/23 and the first quarter of 2023/24, be noted.

6 Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) providing the following information for the 2022/23 financial year:

- The rationale for and an audit opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of Southend-on-Sea City Council's (the Council's) risk management, control and governance processes; and
- a statement on conformance with the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the Standards) and the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report for 2022/23, be accepted and confirmed that the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit can be relied upon as a key source of evidence to support the Annual Governance Statement.

7 Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the Annual Report for the Audit Committee for 2022/23, be approved and referred to the Council for information.

8 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) presenting the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 together with actions planned for 2023/24 and an update on progress made with the 2022/23 action plan.

The Committee asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23, subject to any further views expressed by External Audit, be approved and be recommended to the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive for authorisation and signature, and incorporation in the Statement of Accounts 2022/23.

Chair: _____