

STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 26th September, 2014

Present:-

Councillor Mark Rayner (Chair)

Councillor Helen Elliott
Councillor Jim McManus

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

8 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

9 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Diouf, Brown, Dyke and Avis Murphy.

10 **MINUTES - 27 JUNE, 2014**

That the minutes of the Standards and Audit Committee meeting held on 27 June, 2014 be approved as a true record.

11 **AUDIT REPORT ON THE 2013/14 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Head of Finance submitted a report on the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14, the 'Letter of Representation' and the External Auditor's Annual Governance Report.

Ms. Sue Sunderland and Mr Lee Towers of KPMG attended the meeting to present the External Auditor's Report to those Charged with Governance.

The Council's auditors were required to obtain written representations from management in respect of various matters relating to the accounts in the form of a letter of representation. Each year the appointed Auditor

was required to “communicate audit matters to those charged with governance”.

The report gave details of the adjustments made to the accounts following the audit and included the Audit opinion and the value for money conclusion.

*** RESOLVED -**

- (1) That approves the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 be approved.
- (2) That the Management Letter of Representation be approved, and signed by the Chair and Head of Finance.
- (3) That the Report to those Charged with Governance be noted.

12 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 AND MONITORING REPORT 2014/15

The Head of Finance submitted a report for Members to consider the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2013/14 and the Treasury Management activities for the first five months of 2014/15.

The Committee was responsible for ensuring the effective scrutiny of the Council’s treasury management reports before they were considered by the full Council. Three treasury reports were presented each financial year; the Strategy report before the start of the financial year, the annual report for the previous financial year and a mid-year review for the current year.

***RESOLVED -**

That Council be recommended to:

- (1) note the outturn Prudential Indicators for 2013/14;
- (2) note the treasury management stewardship report for 2013/14;
- (3) note the treasury management position for the first five months of 2014/15.

- (4) approve the proposed changes to the investment arrangements and limits.

13 SUMMARY OF INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS ISSUED

The Interim Head of Internal Consortium submitted a report summarising the Internal Audit reports issued for the period 7 June, 2014 to 5 September, 2014 in respect of reports issued relating to the 2014/15 internal audit plans.

***RESOLVED –**

That the report be noted.

14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – as it contained information relating to an individual.

15 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS FOR STANDARDS MATTERS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report to inform members about the recruitment process for Independent Persons, who are consulted during the councillor complaints process, and to seek approval for these appointments.

The applicants were interviewed by the Monitoring Officer and the Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee and both were recommended for appointment as Independent Persons.

Alternative options considered included only appointing one Independent Person, however appointing more than one would help prevent potential conflicts arising. Recruitment of additional Independent Persons was also

discussed, but it was agreed that this could be considered again in the future if necessary.

*** RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that those applicants recommended by the Chair and Monitoring Officer be appointed as Independent Persons for the purpose of being consulted and giving their views on complaints about councillors.