

JOINT BOARD

Tuesday, 22nd September, 2020

Present:-

Councillor Dale (Chair)

Councillors Fritchley
P Gilby

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

No declarations of interest were received.

8 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McGregor (BDC), Cllr Serjeant (CBC), Cllr Cupit (NEDDC) and Karen Hanson (NEDDC).

9 **MINUTES**

The notes and the Record of Decisions of the Joint Board meeting held on 17 September, 2019 were noted.

10 **INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager submitted a report to inform the Joint Board of the Consortium's performance during 2019/20.

It was noted that two auditors had left during the year, but both had been replaced and therefore the consortium had a full complement of staff. Annual reports had been presented to the Audit Committees of both Bolsover District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council and would be presented to North East Derbyshire District Council's Audit Committee the following week.

The Joint Board noted that whilst COVID 19 was mentioned in the report, it would have a much greater impact on the ability of the consortium's

staff to complete the 2020/21 programme. Staff were working remotely on the Internal Audit Plans. Training had also been conducted online.

A self-assessment in respect of compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards had been completed.

The Customer Satisfaction Score of 94% was highlighted as was the accumulated budget surplus for the financial year; this would be redistributed proportionately amongst the 3 councils.

The Leader of Bolsover District Council thanked the Internal Audit Consortium Manager for the audit team's role in supporting the development of new Risk Management Strategies for both Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.

RESOLVED –

That the annual report of the Internal Audit Consortium be approved.

11 EXTERNAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager presented a report setting out the requirement for an external review of the internal audit consortium to measure compliance against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

An external review was required every five years; the next review was due in July 2021. It was proposed that the external review be carried out using the CIPFA Public Sector Internal Audit Standards Checklist. Quotes would be obtained from appropriately qualified assessors and the 3 councils' Audit Committees had delegated authority for the Internal Audit Consortium Manager to make the appointment. A budget to cover the costs of the review had been included in the 2021/22 budget estimates.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

AGREED –

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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraphs 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972' on the grounds that it contains information on consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

13 UPDATE ON THE DERBYSHIRE-WIDE BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP

Chesterfield Borough Council's Assistant Director - Economic Development presented an update on the Derbyshire-Wide Building Control Partnership. The Partnership had performed very well in the financial year 2019/20 and a shareholder dividend had been paid to the participating councils.

Income had been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in the first quarter of the financial year 2020/21, however, operating costs were lower due to the furloughing of staff. Throughout the lockdown periods dangerous structure call outs had continued and staff were commended for their commitment and diligence. All staff members had been provided with the capability to work from home and of the 15 people furloughed, 13 were now back at work.

The Partnership had also offered discounts to new and existing customers in order to help stimulate the economy.

ISO 9001 accreditation had been achieved. Two new surveyors and two new qualified fire engineers had been recruited.

It was noted that High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had requested to join the Partnership; each existing member council would need to consent to this, but there were no particular grounds for not proceeding with the proposal to expand the Partnership. Talks with other councils were ongoing.

There was also a requirement to review the service level agreement in May 2021.

The Joint Board was advised of the proposed Building Safety Bill, which had been developed in response to the Hackett report and the potential implications for the Partnership. The Bill would introduce a number of new legal duties and offences and the requirement to appoint a Building Safety Manager with organisational capability and relevant skills. The Bill would strengthen the role of Building Control and the Partnership intended to embrace the changes and remain at the forefront of developments.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a letter of thanks be sent to the staff of the Derbyshire-wide Building Control Partnership from the Leaders of Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council for their hard work and commitment throughout 2020.