

JOINT BOARD

Friday, 8th October, 2021

Present:-

Councillor (Chair)

Councillors Dale

Councillors

P Gilby

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Fritchley (BDC), Cllr Duncan McGregor (BDC), Cllr Amanda Serjeant (CBC) and Gill Callingham (NEDDC).

3 MINUTES

The notes and the Record of Decisions of the Joint Board meeting held on 23 March, 2021 were noted.

4 EXTERNAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager advised the committee of the results of the external review of internal audit that had taken place in May 2021. An external assessment of internal audit is a requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) which were introduced in 2013. The assessments must take place every five years and the last external review took place in 2016.

The assessor who undertook the review was CIPFA qualified with over 40 years internal audit experience. The assessment took place throughout May 2021 and was conducted remotely due to Covid-19. The Consortium's documentation, working practices, committee reports and

working paper files were reviewed and the audit committee chairs and senior managers were invited to complete a questionnaire.

The report, attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, concluded that the Internal Audit Consortium were delivering internal audit services to a standard that generally conforms with the PSIAS and there were no areas that did not comply with the standards. The review report benchmarked against other provision in both the sector and the wider industry and showed that that team compared favourably in comparison with its peers and other sectors. The report also made a number of recommendations aimed at highlighting where further development could be made to enhance the value of the service being provided.

RESOLVED –

That the results of the external review of internal audit be noted.

5 INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager submitted a report to inform the Joint Board of the Consortium's performance during 2020/21.

The report gave a summary of the progress made with regard to:

- The preparation of Internal Audit Plans for the three Councils
- Changes made to Working Procedures / Improvement Plans
- The Consortium's financial performance
- Staffing, training and development

It was noted that the progress of the plans had been impacted by the pandemic, however, enough of the internal audit plans was completed to be able to give an unlimited audit opinion and any areas that were incomplete would be rolled forward to the following year. Plans would be prioritised according to risk and focus would be given to areas of concern.

Discussion took place around the difficulties encountered when recruiting to audit positions and it was acknowledged that this was a problem across the region and financial sector.

The Risk Register had been updated and this was attached to the report as Appendix 2.

The team was thanked for their hard work and flexibility throughout the pandemic.

AGREED:

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

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - 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.

7 VERBAL UPDATE ON THE DERBYSHIRE WIDE BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP

The Service Director – Economic Growth, Chesterfield Borough Council gave a verbal update on the progress made by the Derbyshire Wide Building Control Partnership over the last 12 months.

The impact of the pandemic was noted, particularly in relation to the income levels over the summer period however there were indications of a strong recovery despite the challenges and significant changes over the previous 12 months. Work from High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands was being undertaken by the partnership and there had been a 15% increase in planning activity.

A new Growth Plan had been implemented with a focus on; investing in staff, potential changes to regulatory obligations, investment in the Partnership's core market and continued exploration of areas outside the core operations.

A new Service Level Agreement had been agreed and the ISO 9001 Quality Management accreditation had been retained.

The administration team had returned to the office and were proactively building relationships with customers. Opportunities had been identified to continue developing staff members and provide them with the skills and resilience they need.

Four key ambitions were outlined and the Service Director emphasised that the long term aim was to continue to deliver a growing successful business providing an exemplar Commercial Public Sector owned operation.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.