

JOINT BOARD

Tuesday, 29th March, 2022

Present:-

Councillor Dale (Chair)

Councillors Fritchley

Councillors

Serjeant

*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 Tricia Gilby (CBC) and Huw Bowen (CBC).

3 **MINUTES**

The notes and the Record of Decisions of the Joint Board meeting held on 8 October, 2021 were noted.

4 **UPDATE ON THE CHESTERFIELD AND NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE
CREDIT UNION BUSINESS PLAN**

The Manager of the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union presented an update to the committee. It was highlighted that the number of staff had decreased in the last two years and in particular the number of volunteers had drastically reduced from 46 to three. A dedicated board of directors remained in place and the office was now open on a Thursday and Friday for appointments only, after having been closed throughout the lockdown stage of the pandemic.

There had been a slow down in the growth of membership numbers, share value and members loans but the board continued to consider options to continue growth in the future.

There had been investment in technology with the introduction of a banking app and an improved website. A new product was expected to help members with the purchase of school uniforms. A key focus of appointments had become assisting members to find help from other organisations.

Discussions took place around the demographics of members and the committee heard that members were predominantly those with young families due to the engagement work with schools. It was acknowledged that more outreach work was required and visits to schools had been resumed. The branch had links with 24 schools and the Junior Savers Scheme was one of the most successful in the country in this respect. The ambition was to take the app into secondary schools to the next generation of savers and borrowers.

A summary of the main products and services was provided along with the main areas for development.

RESOLVED –

That the update was noted.

5 INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM PROGRESS REPORT 2021/2022 AND DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2022/2023

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager presented a report to update the Joint Board on the progress made by the Internal Audit Consortium during 2021/22, to provide an update on the Business Plan (budget) for 2021/22 and to seek approval for the Business Plan (budget) for the Consortium for 2022/23.

The report included a progress summary on staffing, working procedures, and internal audit plans for the 3 authorities. Staff had continued to predominantly work from home. An external review had taken place in May 2021 and work on the action plan was in progress.

Reasonable progress had been made on the internal audit plans for 2021/22 but they would not be completed and therefore this would have a knock on effect on the 2022/23 plans as some areas would be carried forward onto the new plan.

It was noted that Derbyshire Dales District Council continued to use the Internal Audit Consortium as a management service.

A revised business plan for 2021/22 was in place and draft business plan for 2022/23 had been prepared. The risk register had been updated and discussion took place around the difficulties faced in recruitment, which was evident across the sector. A further update on this would be provided to the committee at its meeting in September.

RESOLVED –

1. That the progress made by the Internal Audit Consortium be noted.
2. That the revised business plan (budget) for 2021/22 and the draft Internal Audit Consortium Business Plan (and associated charges) for 2022/23, based on Appendix 1, be approved.
3. That an annual report on the outcome of the operation of the Internal Audit Consortium for 2021/22 be submitted to the Joint Board following the year-end.
4. That authority be delegated to the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium to retain the surplus from 21/22 and potentially to use this and the carried forward balance to cover any agency fees relating to unfilled vacancies, or for increased staffing costs pending the outcome of a salary benchmarking exercise / structure review.

6 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee was due to take place on Wednesday 21 September, 2022 at 2.00pm at The Arc, High Street, Clowne S43 4JY.