

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY (AUDIT AND VALUE FOR MONEY COUNCIL SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee held in a virtual environment on 9th September 2020 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors P. Hudson (Chairman), L. Beech, Mrs B. Brady, A. A. Chaudhry, A. Clarke, M. Fitzpatrick, D. F. Fletcher, S. Gaskin, Mrs V. J. Gould, H. Hall, M. Metcalfe, S. Sankey and C. Sylvester.

Officers Present:

Sal Khan (Head of Service), Lisa Turner (the Chief Accountant), James Abbott (Corporate and Commercial Manager) and Monica Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Also Present:

Mr M. Green and Mr D. Rowley (Grant Thornton).

116/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

117/20 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee held on 25th June 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L Beech		
Councillor B Brady		Councillor A Clarke
Councillor A A Chaudhry		Councillor D Fletcher
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor V J Gould		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor P Hudson		
Councillor M Metcalfe		
Councillor S Sankey		
Councillor C Sylvester		

118/20 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

119/20 **EXTERNAL AUDIT FINDINGS**

(Grant Thornton) The representative from Grant Thornton updated Members on the external audit findings. The report, circulated with the agenda, highlighted the key matters arising from their audit of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020, and to report their audit findings to management and those charged with governance.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

120/20 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/2020**

The Chief Accountant gave a short presentation on the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 following the work undertaken by the Council's external auditors, and requested that Members recommended their approval subject to any adjustments that may be necessary following the conclusion of the external auditors work and authority be delegated to the Chair to sign the accounts accordingly. Members were also asked to recommend the approval of the Letter of Representation, on behalf of the Authority.

An opportunity for questions followed.

A proposal was put forward by Councillor P. Hudson (seconded by Councillor C. Sylvester) to approve the recommendation.

Resolved:

That the Statutory Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and the letter of representation, as appended to the report, are approved subject to any adjustments that may be necessary following the conclusion of the external auditors work and authority be delegated to the Chair to sign the accounts accordingly.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L Beech		
Councillor B Brady		
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor A Clarke		
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D Fletcher		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor V J Gould		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor P Hudson		

Councillor M Metcalfe		
Councillor S Sankey		
Councillor C Sylvester		

An opportunity for questions followed.

121/20 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions submitted to the Committee prior to the meeting.

122/20 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:

That the next meeting take place on Monday 21st September 2020 at 6.30pm.

Chairman