

# 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 the Coltman VC Room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### **Present:**

Councillors S. Smith (Chairman), S Andjelkovic, M. J. Bowering, A. A. Chaudhry, M. Fitzpatrick, D. F, Fletcher, S. Gaskin, D. Goodfellow, Mrs H. Hall, P. Hudson, A. Johnson, Mrs J. Killoran, L. Milner, C. Smith and Mrs B. Toon.

### **Independent Members:**

Mrs A. Johnson and Dr B. Jones.

### **Officers Present:**

The Head of Service (Sal Khan), the Chief Accountant, the Corporate and Commercial Manager and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Also Present:**

Mr T. Ridout (Internal Auditor - CW Audit) and Mr M. Stocks and Mrs J. Barnett (Grant Thornton).

#### 01/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### 02/17 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor C. Smith was appointed vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

#### 03/17 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

#### 04/17 **AUDIT TRAINING PLAN**

The Chief Accountant informed Members that training suggestions had been identified based on the planned audit work over the course of the financial year. A draft training plan for 2017 – 2018 was circulated with the agenda.

An opportunity for questions followed.

### **Resolved:**

Members accepted the training dates outlined in the plan.

05/17 **PROGRESS REPORT**

(CW Audit) The Internal Auditor gave a report summary of the work of internal audit, outlining the progress against the audit plan, the key findings and conclusions arising from their work, details of planned work and to update the Committee on the progress made in implementing previously agreed recommendations.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**NOTED**

06/17 **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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, and to report their audit findings to management and those charged with governance.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**NOTED**

07/17 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Chief Accountant gave a short presentation on the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 following the conclusion of the work undertaken by the Council's external auditors, and requested that Members recommended their approval. Members were also asked to recommend the approval of the Letter of Representation, on behalf of the Authority.

An opportunity for questions followed.

Members wished it to place on record their thanks for the hard work carried out by officers in producing the accounts in such timely manner.

**Resolved:**

That the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 and the Letter of Representation be recommended to the Audit Committee (Approval of the Statement of Accounts) for approval.

08/17 **PUBLIC SECTOR AUDIT APPOINTMENTS UPDATE**

Members received a verbal update from the Chief Accountant following the decision taken by full Council in December 2016 to opt-in to the sector led approach to the appointment of external auditors for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. It was highlighted that 98% of local authorities had opted into the sector led approach and that the procurement exercise has been completed with overall indicative savings of 18%. Final appointments of auditors to individual authorities are expected to be complete by December 2017.

An opportunity for questions followed.

The Chief Accountant informed Members that she would update them as soon as further information became available.

## **NOTED**

### **09/17 REVIEW OF COUNCIL INCOME GENERATION – SCOPING PAPER**

It was agreed that the Committee's next review would be the 'Council's Income Streams'. Accordingly a scoping paper for the review had been sent to Members previously and circulated with the agenda.

The Corporate and Commercial Manager requested that Members gave consideration to setting up an informal sub-group to research the topic and report their findings back to the committee for discussion so recommendations can be made by the Committee.

Members agreed that Councillors Ms S. Andjelkovic, M. Bowering, M. Fitzpatrick and D. Fletcher would form the sub-group.

An opportunity for questions followed.

## **NOTED**

### **10/17 PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

Members considered the Public Decision Records.

An opportunity for questions followed.

## **NOTED**

### **11/17 QUESTIONS**

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

### **12/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

#### **Resolved:**

That the next meeting take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 6.30pm in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent.

### **13/17 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### **Resolved:**

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda:

## **PRIVATE EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

### **DOVE WAY/PENNYCROFT LANE PROJECT REVIEW**

**Chairman**