

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **AUDIT COMMITTEE** held on 19 March 2024 in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor G Musson (in the Chair)

Councillors N Atkin, P Rose and Joan Dixon (substitute member).

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors R Mihaly, J Nelson and R Parkinson

Officers present: A Baldwin, D Catlow, T Kearsey, M Kenyon, M Lunn and A Yendle.

**10/24     TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**11/24     TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held 30 January 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

**12/24     PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND BUDGET MONITORING/FORECAST OUTTURN**

M Kenyon the Director of Finance & ICT introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that provided Members with an update of Council Plan performance and the Revenue Budget/forecast outturn for 2023-24, as of 31 December 2023 (Quarter 3).

**RESOLVED to note:**

- 1) The update of Council Plan performance and the Revenue Budget position/forecast outturn for 2023-24 as of 31 December 2023 (Quarter 3);
- 2) The position on General and Earmarked Reserves;

- 3) The significant actions are required and will be undertaken across the Council to reduce the significant revenue overspend detailed in this report. Note that Cabinet will be kept informed on the implementation and progress of these actions; and
- 4) The virement of devolved training budgets from departments to a centralised training budget managed by the Learning and Development team within the Human Resources function, with effect from 1 April 2024.

**13/24**      **PERFORMANCE AND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25**

M Kenyon the Director of Finance & ICT introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that provided Members with details of the latest arrangements for performance and budget monitoring/forecast outturn.

**RESOLVED to:**

Note the details of current performance and budget monitoring arrangements.

**14/24**      **LOCAL AUDIT DELAYS - DLUHC PROPOSALS UPDATE AND CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

M Kenyon the Director of Finance & ICT introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that provided Members with a summary of Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities proposals to address local audit delays and advised Members of the Council's response to the associated DLUHC Consultation.

**RESOLVED to note:**

- 1) The summary provided on DLUHC's proposals to address local audit delays; and
- 2) The Council's response to the DLUHC Consultation seeking views on proposed legislative changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which would be required to implement DLUHC's proposals.

**15/24**     **UPDATE ON 2022-23 EXTERNAL AUDIT INTERNAL CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS**

D Catlow the Assistant Director of Finance introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that provided Members with an update on internal control recommendations outlined in the external auditor's Council and Derbyshire Pension Fund Audit Completion Reports for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**RESOLVED to:**

Note that there were no internal control recommendations outlined in the external auditor's Council and Derbyshire Pension Fund Audit Completion Reports for the year ended 31 March 2023 and that no further action is required.

**16/24**     **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

M Kenyon the Director of Finance & ICT introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that asked Members to note changes made to the Accounting Policies for 2021-22 and subsequent years in respect of Infrastructure Assets and to sought approval for amendments to the Accounting Policies for 2023-24 and to the proposed Accounting Policies for 2024-25.

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Note the changes made to the Accounting Policies for 2021-22 and subsequent years in respect of Infrastructure Assets; and
- 2) Approve the changes outlined above in relation to the Accounting Policies for 2023-24; and
- 3) Approve the changes outlined above in relation to the Accounting Policies for 2024-25.

**17/24**     **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY**

M Kenyon the Director of Finance & ICT introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that advised Members of the latest review and sought approval for updates to the Council's Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

**RESOLVED to:**

Note that a review of the Anti-Money Laundering Policy has taken place and approved the amended Policy at Appendix 2 to the report.

**18/24**     **TAX STRATEGY**

D Catlow the Assistant Director of Finance introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that advised Members of the latest review and update of the Council's Tax Strategy.

**RESOLVED to:**

Note that a review and update of the Tax Strategy has taken place.

**19/24**     **REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

D Catlow the Assistant Director of Finance introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that asked Members to consider the proposed amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders relating to Contracts and recommend approval of the updated documents to Council.

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Considered the proposed amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations & Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and recommend approval of the updated documents to Council; and
- 2) Note that approval for the proposed amendments to progress to Council will be sought from the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee

**20/24**      **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER - 2023-24 QUARTER 3 UPDATE**

T Kearsey, Senior Finance Officer (Corporate Risk), introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that asked Members to review the Council's strategic risk register.

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee notes this report.

**21/24**      **ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024-25**

M Lunn Assistant Director of Finance (Audit) introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, that was presented to Members for consideration and approval the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2024-25 (Q1-Q2).

**RESOLVED to:**

- 1) Endorse the approach taken to create the proposed Draft Internal Audit Plan for 2024-25 (Q1-Q2);
- 2) Note that the Plan may be subject to amendment in response to emerging risks: and
- 3) Approve the draft Audit Services Plan which was attached at Appendix 2 of this report.

**22/24**      **DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

Mark Surridge from Mazars attended the meeting to present their draft progress report for the year ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Surridge for his attendance at the meeting and his comprehensive report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee notes the report of the External Auditor.

The meeting finished at 2.47 pm

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