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Chief Executive

AGENDA

Committee:	AUDIT
Date and Time:	24th November 2020 at 5 p.m.
Venue:	Remote via MS Teams
Membership:	Councillors Skipp (Chairman), Blackwell, Cutler, May and Mumford Substitutes: Councillors Acott, Ms Drogman, Thomas and Walter
Officers attending:	Lance Wosko, Financial Services Manager Andrew Barnes, Head of Internal Audit Michael Dineen, Senior Manager, Counter Fraud & Investigation Directorate Ben Brook, Strategy, Policy and Performance Manager
Also attending	Debbie Hanson, Associate Partner, EY
Enquiries:	Ann Horgan, Ext. 2413

PART I

(Business to be taken in public)

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Members' Interests**
- 3. Minutes**
A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2020 is attached.
- 4. EY External Audit Planning Report for the year ended 31 March 2020:**
Report of the External Auditor is attached.
- 5. Counter Fraud & Investigation Directorate: Annual Report 2019/20 and Counter Fraud Plan and Strategy 2020/21:**
Report of the Senior Manager, Counter Fraud Investigation Directorate is attached.
- 6. Head of Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2019/20:**
Report of the Head of Internal Audit is attached.

7. Treasury Management Annual Report and Actual Prudential Indicators 2019/20:

Report of the Financial Services Manager is attached.

8. EY External Audit Results Report for the year ended 31 March 2020:

Report of the External Auditor is attached.

9. Annual Governance Statement 2019/20:

Report of the Strategy, Policy & Performance Manager is attached.

10. Internal Audit Charter, Strategy and Plan 2020/21:

Report of the Head of Internal Audit is attached.

Current Information Items (standing item)

CIPFA Better Governance Forum:

- Audit Committee Update, Helping Audit Committees to be Effective, Issue 31: Compendium Edition: A selection of briefings from the last 10 years of Audit Committee Update
- Audit Committee Update, Helping Audit Committees to be Effective, Issue 32: COVID-19 Pandemic – Key Issues for the Audit Committee and a Regular Briefing on New Developments

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

16TH JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillors Cutler (Chairman), Acott (substitute for Councillor Blackwell) Blackwell, May, Skipp (substitute for Councillor Sharp) and Mrs Thornton

Councillor Hart also attended.

Head of Internal Audit, Andrew Barnes, Financial Services Manager, Ben Brook, Strategy Policy and Performance Manager, Michael Dineen, Senior Manager Counter Fraud & Investigation and Debbie Hanson, Associate Partner (EY) were also present.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackwell and Sharp.

18. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

19. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

20. QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A report was presented to the Committee and discussed on the findings from the quarterly monitoring of the Council's governance arrangements. Members considered the appendix to the report introduced at the last meeting providing an update on actions to address the issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved –

That the Committee notes the assurance provided by the report with regard to the operation of the Council's governance framework and the progress against the action plan to address governance issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement.

21. COUNTER FRAUD AND INVESTIGATION DIRECTORATE: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report setting out the progress made by the Counter Fraud and Investigation Directorate (CFID) in delivering the Counter Fraud Strategy and work programme for 2019/20. The report included the performance of the service which was now aligned to financial year reporting from its previous reporting period set at the municipal year.

Appendix A to the report outlined the progress which had been in delivering the agreed proactive counter – fraud work plan for the year. The value of suspected fraud under investigation amounted to £288,400. Members were pleased to note the progress.

Following on from discussion of the report at the last meeting on the cyber-crime risk assessment being undertaken across the Council, Members received additional information regarding the risk matrix.

Resolved:

To note the performance of the Counter Fraud & Investigation Directorate to date.

22. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE, QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Head of Internal Audit presented to the Committee a report on progress made in delivering the Internal Audit Strategy for 2019/20.

Appendix A to the report set out the current status of audit work planned for the year as at 17th December 2019. Changes were being had been made to reassess the scope of work identified since the Plan was last reported to the Audit Committee in March 2019 so that audit work was focussed appropriately to deliver the maximum impact for the Council.

Appendix B summarised the results of the audit work completed this year. No minimal assurance opinions had been issued to date

Appendix C set out details of Stakeholder Surveys and Compliance with Professional Standards. Overall the feedback obtained remained very positive, with the results showing that stakeholders found the service to be flexible, communicative, collaborative and of value to the organisation.

Resolved – That the progress made in delivering the 2019/20 Internal Audit Strategy is noted.

23. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT STRATEGIES 2020/21

The Council must comply with the Code of Practice - Treasury Management in the Public Services, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). As part of this Code the Council was required to approve an annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for the forthcoming financial year.

The strategies for 2020/21 were attached to the report and considered by the Committee.

Resolved –

That following scrutiny, the Treasury Management and Investment Strategies for 2020/21 are approved for onward

Audit Committee – 16th January 2020

submission to Council on 19th February 2020 as sections 12 and 13 of the overall Policy Framework and Budget Setting Report.

Chairman