

At a meeting of the Audit Committee held in Council Chamber - Allerdale House, Workington on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 2.00 pm

Members

Councillor Janet King (Chair)
Councillor Mary Bainbridge

Councillor Alan Tyson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jim Lister

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carole Armstrong, Councillor John Colhoun and Councillor Paul Scott

Staff Present

J Irving, L Jardine and E Thompson

Also Present

J Farrar and A Pieri

19. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2019 were signed as a correct record.

20. Declaration of Interests

None Declared

21. Questions

None Received

22. Assurance, Risk and Audit Year End Report 2018/19

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager attended the meeting to deliver the Assurance, Risk and Audit Year End Report for 2018/19.

Members were advised of a summary of the audit work carried out, along with the substantial assurance framework.

The chargeable time for the year was 75%, which was above the target of 71%.

In relation to risk management the Audit Committee will have regular oversight and regular risk management work is undertaken with senior leaders.

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager also explained some background to the new members on corporate fraud and the risk register, advising the group that a risk workshop will be arranged.

Members asked questions relating to lost audit time, this was due to officer sickness and reduced officer time. This will be mitigated by the new Assurance, Risk and Internal auditor who had commenced employment with the Council.

Agreed

That the Assurance, Risk and Audit Year End Report 2018/19 be noted.

23. Audit Strategy Plan 19/20

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager presented the Audit Strategy Plan for 2019/20.

Members were advised that the plan for 19/20 was risk based and focused on what can be delivered with the resources available.

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager then explained that in March 2019 they had taken on the role of HUB manager, reducing the time available to manage the Assurance, Risk and Audit Function.

Agreed

That the contents of the Audit Strategy Plan 2019/20 be noted.

24. Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager presented the report on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

The Governance Statement included the core principles of delivering good governance and the principles of how governance should work.

Members were also advised how the council complies with the 2016 CIPFA Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Governance' and how the council structures its approach to compliance around the seven principles set out in the framework.

Agreed

That the contents of the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 be approved.

25. Grant Thornton Fee Letter 2019/20

The Audit Fee Letter 2019/20 was presented by John Farrar and Angela Pieri and members were advised that the fee has not increased from 2018/19.

Agreed

That the contents of the Audit Fee Letter 2019/20 be noted

26. Audit Committee Progress Report

The Audit Committee Progress Report was presented by Grant Thornton LLP, advising that the report is an audit of accounts and value for money; in conclusion to interim work of the high level summary, Grant Thornton LLP has identified no risks.

Members were advised that legal judgements surrounding the firefighter's pension scheme could have an implication for reporting council accounts, due to potential increase in liabilities for local government pension schemes.

In relation to value for money, the two local risks were identified as the waste contract and the potential sports stadium. Grant Thornton advised members they were not aware of any weakness in the Audit Committee Progress Report.

Agreed

Members noted the contents of the Audit Committee Progress Report

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm