

At a meeting of the Audit Committee held in Council Chamber, Allerdale House on Tuesday 4 July 2017 at 2.00 pm

Members

Councillor Neil Schofield (Chair)
Councillor Mary Bainbridge
Councillor Adrian Davis-Johnston
Councillor Billy Miskelly

Councillor John Colhoun (Vice-Chair)
Councillor John Cook
Councillor Duncan Fairbairn

Apologies for absence were received from

Staff Present

B Lennox, K Magnay, S Sewell and E Thompson

Also Present

J Farrar and R McGahon

58. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2017 were signed as a correct record.

59. Declaration of Interests

None declared.

60. Questions

None received.

61. Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards Self Assessment

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager submitted a report that sought to set out how the Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (QAIP) would deliver its service in line with the Public Sector Internal Auditing Standard 1311 (PSIAS).

The report contained the results of the self-assessment and subsequent action plan.

Councillor D Fairbairn commented if we are compliant why has it been ticked that we are not compliant, Councillor D Fairbairn also expressed his concerns about not being compliant.

John Farrar, External Audit indicated that in his experience arrangements differed from council to council and the indicated non-compliance was not necessarily something to be concerned about. John Farrar, External Audit noted that self-assessments against Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards at

councils often raised areas of apparent non-compliance for different reasons. John Farrar, External Audit asked The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager whether she had direct access to the Chief Executive as necessary, The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager confirmed she has regular meetings with the Chief Executive and The Corporate Director.

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager asked members to agree with the recommendations.

62. Draft Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

The Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer submitted a report setting out the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17. The Council was required to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement to meet the statutory requirements set out in the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

Members noted the report.

Councillor D Fairbairn asked how many complaints/whistle blowing we had received.

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager confirmed complaints are reported to the Senior Management Team every month and these are submitted into the performance report. With regards to Whistleblowing we receive annual feedback which none have been reported.

Councillor A Davis-Johnston suggested merging sections 3.9 and 3.19 or bring them closer together in the report.

The Assurance, Risk and Audit Manager agreed this was a good suggestion and a good approach. The Procurement documents are currently being updated.

The Audit Committee approved the draft Annual Governance Statement and agreed the recommendations.

Councillor D Fairbairn moved approval.
Councillor M Bainbridge seconded.

Meetings for Members

Members to have debriefing sessions after the meetings to commence from 21 August 2017.

These sessions will include any development opportunities and to discuss how the meeting has gone and how they can be improved.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm