

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee held a meeting on 28 March 2019 and considered the following items of business.

1. Annual Audit Letter 2016/17

- 1.1 The Committee noted the Annual Audit letter for 2016/17.

2. Update from KPMG on Statement of Accounts 2017/18 and Value for Money (VFM) Statement for 2017/18.

- 2.1 The external auditors KPMG presented a draft audit report and advised that their work on the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 was substantially complete, however work on the VFM conclusion was ongoing.
- 2.2 The Committee and Chair expressed their disappointment and displeasure at the length of time KPMG have been taking to complete their work for us, especially in light of the additional workload imposed on our Audit and Finance teams and the impact this has on the work that our new auditors wish to deliver.

3. Procurement update

- 3.1 The Committee received an update on the review of procurement strategy and improvements made or proposed as a result of the review.

4. Recruitment and Retention and Partnerships

- 4.1 An update was provided to the Committee on action taken to recruit or retain staff in departments where difficulties had been experienced with these issues.
- 4.2 The apprenticeship levy had been used on upskilling existing staff and the appointment of four new apprentices.

5. Brexit

- 5.1 The Committee received a report highlighting some of the perceived risks and potential impact of Brexit on the Council and local area. It noted that the lack of certainty about the UK's form of departure made planning for post-Brexit very difficult.

6. Corporate Risk Management

- 6.1 The Committee noted the contents of the Corporate Risk Register and recommended it to Cabinet for approval.

7. External Audit Plan 2018/19

- 7.1 The Committee received an overview of the external audit plan for 2018/19, which outlined the risk areas for assessment and the auditors planned approach.

8. Internal Audit Annual Plan 2019/20

- 8.1 The Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Plan which set out the planned work for Audit Services for the year 2019/20 in order to fulfil its statutory and professional requirements.

8.2 The Committee noted the constraints of the plan due to the limited resources of the team and requested a further update at their meeting in November.

9. Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy

9.1 The Committee endorsed the Council's Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy, and

9.2 Recommended the proposed changes to the Anti-Fraud Bribery and Corruption Strategy to Cabinet for approval.

10. Committee Work Programme

10.1 The Committee Work Programme for 2019/20 was approved subject to the addition of an update on the Audit Services resource in November and an extraordinary meeting of the Audit Committee being arranged in September if the current auditors, BDO, were in a position to present their audit report on the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts.

Councillor M.J. Madams

Chairman of the Audit Committee

25 April 2019