

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee held a meeting on 25 June 2015 and considered the following items of business.

1. Internal Audit Annual Report

The Committee noted the Internal Audit Annual Report 2014/2015 which demonstrated how the authority fulfilled its statutory requirements to 'maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper internal audit practices.'

2. Corporate Risk Management

The Committee noted and accepted the quarterly update on the Corporate Risk Register.

The Committee received an update from the Head of Streetscene on the provision of internal horticultural expertise to manage the grounds maintenance contract and tree maintenance works. The Committee noted that significant developments had been made to alleviate the risks associated following the issues being highlighted by the Corporate Risk Register and the intervention of the Audit Committee. The Committee noted that the Head of Streetscene had completed a Royal Horticultural Society course in horticultural standards in 2014 and since then had created a booklet for enforcement officers who inspect the parks and open spaces of the Borough. The booklet provided relevant horticultural information to officers which assisted them in their inspections and alleviated the risks associated with managing the grounds maintenance and tree maintenance contract. The Head of Streetscene also informed the Committee that a detailed spreadsheet and timetable had also been created for the enforcement teams to use to identify what maintenance needs to occur on an annual basis.

The Committee noted an exempt report from the Risk and Resilience Manager on the Council's Business Continuity plans and were satisfied that progress was underway.

3. Committee Work Programme 2015-2016

The Committee approved its Work Programme for the 2015-2016 Municipal year.

Councillor Mary Madams
Chairman of the Audit Committee

16 July 2015