

**Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
17 April 2023**

Present:

Councillor J.R. Boughtflower (Chairman)

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell

T. Fidler

O. Rybinski

M. Beecher

S.C. Mooney

J.R. Sexton

R.O. Barratt

L. E. Nichols

J.T.F. Doran

R.J. Noble

51/23 Apologies and Substitutes

Apologies were received from Councillors Beardsmore, Dunn and Mitchell.

Councillor Bateson was present as substitute for Councillor Dunn.

52/23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February and 21 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

53/23 Disclosures of Interest

Councillors Attewell, Mooney and Sexton declared that they were also Surrey County Councillors.

54/23 Questions from members of the Public

There were none.

55/23 Corporate Risk Management

The Committee considered a report from the Internal Audit Manager that sought to advise the Committee of the significant strategic risks and issues and how they are identified, managed, monitored and reported.

The Committee **resolved** to note:

1. that the continued visibility and ownership of the risks and issues raised in this report are recommended across the Council due to the significant and wide-reaching implications; and
2. that the Corporate Risk Register supported improved co-ordination in addressing risks and implementing mitigating actions.

56/23 Counter Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy

The Committee considered a report from the Internal Audit Manager that sought a recommendation to Council to amend the Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy.

The Committee was advised that they were required to review the Counter Fraud Bribery and Corruption Strategy annually and make any recommendations for changes to Council. The Council's Constitution would then be updated accordingly.

The Committee were advised that it was important that the Council had a defined robust strategy in place to identify the potential risks and to put in place measures, where possible, to mitigate any likelihood of fraud, bribery or corruption taking place. The Internal Audit Manager stated that during economically challenging times the instances of fraud or corruption were perceived to be on the increase. The Council could be at risk of financial losses, reputational damage and money being taken away from those services that are needed to support our residents if there were not a strategy in place.

The Committee asked that the level of resource within the Audit Team be looked at to ensure that they were able to put in place sufficient measures to identify and monitor areas of potential fraud, bribery or corruption.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to Council that they:

1. Approve and endorse the changes to the Council's Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy; and
2. Approve the update of the Council's Constitution to reflect the revised strategy.

57/23 LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Outline Action Plan

The Committee agreed to defer this item until the meeting scheduled for 05 June 2023.

58/23 Forward Plan

The Committee noted the contents of the Forward Plan with the following addition:

Establishment Review – to be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee on 05 June 2023.

59/23 Urgent Actions

There were no urgent actions taken since the last meeting of the Committee.