
Decisions taken at the meeting held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024.

Meeting Time:

7.00 pm

Meeting Venue:

Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB

PRESENT: Councillor Jon Button (Chair), Councillor Karen Howkins (Vice-Chair), Councillor Michelle Arnold, Councillor Mary Bing Dong, Councillor John Boughtflower, Councillor Lawrence Nichols and Philip Briggs

4. GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PLAN

The Committee **resolved** to note the draft Audit Plan.

5. SPELTHORNE RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee **resolved** to note the Government consultation on:

1. Reset
2. Recovery of national arrangements for external audit of local government
3. Longer term reform of external audit recommendations.

6. UPDATED REVIEW OF SELF ASSESSMENT AGAINST CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Note the refreshed self-assessment against the CIPFA Financial Management Code
2. Note the self-assessment against the DLUHC Best Value Theme for Use of Resources.

7. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT

The Committee **resolved** to consider the significant strategic risks and issues highlighted in the report and present them to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, ensuring continued wider reporting of the Corporate Risk Register and actions across other Committees.

8. COUNTER-FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Endorse the Council's Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy which forms part of the Council's Constitution
2. Approve the changes recommended to the Council's Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy.

9. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Committee **resolved** to note the 2023-24 accounting policies.

10. KGE ACCOUNTS

The Committee **resolved** to note the report and in particular the unqualified audit report.

11. SDS ACCOUNTS

The Committee **resolved** to note the report and particularly the unqualified audit report.

12. FORWARD PLAN

Resolved that the Committee Work Programme for the remainder of the 2023 - 2024 Municipal year, be approved with the agreed changes.

NOTES:-

- (1) *Members are reminded that the “call-in” procedure as set out in Part 4b of the Constitution, shall not apply to the following matters:*
 - (a) *Urgent decisions as defined in Paragraph 9. of the Call-in Scrutiny Procedure Rules;*
 - (b) *Decisions to award a contract following a lawful procurement process;*
 - (c) *Those decisions:*
 - i. *reserved to full Council*
 - ii. *on regulatory matters*
 - iii. *on member conduct issues.*
- (2) *Those matters to which Note (1) applies, if any, are identified with an asterisk [*] in the above Minutes.*
- (3) *Within three working days of the date on which this decision is published, not less than three members from two or more political groups by submission of the standard call-in pro-forma, may ask for that decision to be referred to a meeting of the Administrative Committee for review (call-in). The completed pro-forma must be received by the Proper Officer by 5pm three working days after publication of the decision.*
- (4) *The members exercising the right of call-in must not be members of the Committee which considered the matter.*
- (5) *When calling in a decision for review the members doing so must demonstrate the following exceptional circumstances:*
 - a. *Evidence which suggests that the decision maker, did not take the decision in accordance with the principles set out in Article 11 (Decision Making); or*
 - b. *Evidence that the decision fails to support one or more of the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities to the detriment of the majority of the Borough’s residents; or*
 - c. *Evidence that explicit Council Policy or legal requirements were disregarded.*
- (6) *Once the request for ‘call-in’ has been deemed valid by the Monitoring Officer the matter will be suspended until the call-in procedure has been exhausted.*
- (7) *The Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant officer, will determine if the interests of the Council or Borough would be prejudiced by a delay in implementing a decision such that the call-in cannot wait until the next ordinary meeting of the Administrative Committee.*

- (8) *Where the call-in cannot wait until the next ordinary meeting, the Monitoring Officer will arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Administrative Committee to review the decision subject to call-in at the earliest possible opportunity.*
- (9) *In exceptional cases, where there is clear evidence that a delay to the implementation of a decision would lead to a specific and significant financial or reputational harm to the Council, a call-in request may be refused by the Chief Executive following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Administrative Committee.*
- (10) *In reviewing a matter referred to it under the call-in scrutiny procedure rules, the Administrative Committee shall follow the procedure for dealing with call-in scrutiny at its meetings as set out in Part 4b of the Constitution.*
- (11) *The deadline of three working days for "call in" in relation to the above decisions by the Committee is the close of business on 25 March 2024.*