

Audit Committee

Decisions taken at the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 July 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 John Boughtflower, Councillor Jolyon Caplin, Councillor Lawrence Nichols, Councillor Paul Woodward and Philip Briggs (Independent Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Chris Bateson

4. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25

The Committee **resolved** to approve the Internal Audit Plan 2024-25.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER 2024-25

The Committee **resolved** to approve the Internal Audit Charter 2024-25.

6. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT

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

7. ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND OPINION FOR 2023/24

The Committee resolved to:

- Note the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2023/24
- 2. Note the annual audit opinion on the Council's internal control environment, risk management and governance arrangements.

8. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023-24

The Committee **resolved** to endorse the draft Annual Governance Statement and endorse the improvement actions identified in the statement.

9. UPDATED REVIEW OF SELF-ASSESSMENT AGAINST CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE AND SELF-ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE FINAL BEST VALUE INDICATORS FOR USE OF RESOURCES

The Committee **resolved** to note and approve the self-assessments.

10. PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS - ACTION PLAN

The Committee **resolved** to note the update and actions following on from the July 2023 report setting out the proposed actions in response to the recommendations within the Public Interest Report.

12. FORWARD PLAN

Resolved that the Committee Work Programme for the remainder of the 2024-2025 Municipal year, be approved.

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 proforma, may ask for that decision to be referred to a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Resources 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 Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

- (8) Where the call-in cannot wait until the next ordinary meeting, the Monitoring Officer will arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Corporate Policy and Resources 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 Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.
- (10) In reviewing a matter referred to it under the call-in scrutiny procedure rules, the Corporate Policy and Resources 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 15 July 2024.