

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7 February 2017

7.00 pm – 8.16 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (Chair)	P	Councillor Keith Pearson	P
Councillor Rachel Curley (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Mark Reeves	P
Councillor Martin Baxendale	P	Councillor Tom Williams	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Penny Wride	P
Councillor Colin Fryer	P		

A = Absent P = Present

Officers in attendance

Accountancy Manager
Principal Accountant
KPMG

Head of Audit Risk Assurance
Democratic Services Officer

AC.038

APOLOGIES

There were none.

AC.039

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

AC.040

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016, are approved as a correct record.

AC.041

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

AC.042

WORK PROGRAMME

Members discussed the current work programme:

- Update on the Off Street Car Park audit – work is ongoing and will be presented to the meeting on 11 April 2017.

- HRA Balances Internal Audit follow-up reviews. The Head of Audit Risk Assurance explained that ongoing independent assurance is given to Committee and;
 - A progress update will be given to Committee on 11 April 2017.
 - A further follow up review to be presented to Committee in September.
- ICT Strategy and spending - an update to be given to Committee on 11 April 2017 and progress updates to be put on the work programme for the new civic year.

RESOLVED **To note the work programme.**

AC.043 **ANNUAL SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATION OF GRANT CLAIMS AND RETURNS 2015/16**

KPMG presented the report and explained the summary of their findings, which included:

- Housing benefit returns,
- HCA compliance returns
- Pooling of Housing Capital Receipts
- Decent Homes Backlog funding

Members were questioning the qualification test for the pooling of housing capital receipts which related back to 1999 valuations. Officers will do some research with other authorities.

RESOLVED **To note the report.**

AC.044 **THIRD QUARTER TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/17**

The Principal Accountant presented the report and gave an explanation on the tables, which give updates on treasury management activity as at 31 December 2016.

RESOLVED **To approve the treasury management activity third quarter report for 2016/17.**

AC.045 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT 2017/18**

The Principal Accountant presented the report which fulfils three key requirements of the LGA 2003. Amongst other things, the report sets out the prudential indicators for 2017/18-2019/20 for approval. The current and planned borrowing position of the General Fund and HRA was highlighted.

RESOLVED **To give the Accountancy Manager delegated authority to amend Table 1 and other interrelated tables should Council on 9 February approve an amended capital programme to that assumed in this report.**

**RECOMMENDED
TO COUNCIL**

1. To adopt the prudential indicators and limits for 2017/18 to 2019/20;
2. To approve the treasury management strategy 2017/18, and the treasury prudential indicators;
3. To approve the investment strategy 2017/18, and the detailed criteria for specified and non-specified investments; and To approve the Minimum Revenue Policy Statement 2017/18.

AC.046**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16
IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Head of Audit Risk Assurance presented the report which identifies improvement areas and the actions put in place to addresses these issues.

RESOLVED

That Committee has reviewed and considered the actions taken to address the governance improvement areas identified.

AC.047**INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY PROGRESS REPORT 2016/17**

The Head of Audit Risk Assurance presented her report which informed members of the internal audit activity progress in relation to the approved Internal Audit Plan 2016/2017.

Members discussed the following issues:

- Council tax and business rates DD payments – an internal audit review will be undertaken as part of the 2017/18 audit plan and will be completed by May 2017. The review outcomes will be provided to the Committee.
- ICT concerns and risks. Officers will be working with ICT to identify the risks.
- Business Continuity.
- Corporate procedure on Radon.

RESOLVED

To accept:

1. **The progress against the Internal Audit Plan 2016/17; and**
2. **The assurance opinions provided in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's control environment comprising risk management, control and governance arrangements as a result of the Internal Audit activity completed to date.**

AC.048**MEMBER QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.

Chair