

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 April 2017

7.00 pm – 8.10 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy (Chair)	P	Councillor Keith Pearson	P
Councillor Rachel Curley (Vice-Chair)	A	Councillor Mark Reeves	A
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

Head of Audit Risk Assurance	Legal Services Manager & Monitoring Officer
Accountancy Manager	Principal Procurement Officer
Community & Facilities Manager	Democratic Services Officer

Others in attendance

Darren Gilbert, Director of KPMG (External Auditors).

AC.049

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Rachel Curley and Mark Reeves.

AC.050

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

AC.051

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2017, are approved as a correct record.

AC.052

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

AC.053 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair provided a verbal update on a revised work programme that would be circulated to committee by email. Members discussed topics that they would like to be included on the programme and it was

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To agree the revised work programme.**
 - b) **To receive a Members' Information Sheet providing an update on Brimscombe Port (including the skate park) within a month.**
 - c) **At a future date to receive more information on ICT.**

AC.054 **ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY STATEMENT AND STRATEGY (INCLUDING ANTI BRIBERY POLICY AND ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY) 2017-2019**

The Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) (Chief Internal Auditor) outlined the above report and also confirmed that all officers would receive a presentation at June's Proud of Stroud to gain an understanding of the reporting requirements. An assurance was given that allegations would be given immediate priority by herself, the Monitoring Officer and if necessary, the Police who may also need to become involved.

- RESOLVED** **To approve the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy (including Anti Bribery Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy) 2017-2019.**

AC.055 **RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY 2017-2020**

The Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer confirmed that a thorough review had been carried out of risk management and the risk register. A toolkit would be used to enable for more effective risk management which would prove very useful when difficult decisions had to be made in the future.

- RESOLVED** **To adopt the Risk Management Policy set out in Appendix A.**

AC.056 **INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY PROGRESS REPORT 2016-17**

The Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) (Chief Internal Auditor) highlighted two particular areas within the report, off street parking and the HRA balances. Both areas of work had made significant improvements. The financial viability of projects which were the responsibility of other committees was also discussed. The management of the Merrywalks off-street parking would be undertaken in another review.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To accept the progress against the Internal Audit Plan 2016-17; and**
 - b) **To accept 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.057 **RISK BASED INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2017-18**

The Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) (Chief Internal Auditor) outlined the above report. Concerns were raised about the consistency in decision making by committees. Assurances were given that a business case had been put forward for all projects within the Capital Programme and these would be carefully monitored.

RESOLVED **To approve the Annual Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2017-18 as detailed in Appendix A.**

AC.058 **AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

The Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) (Chief Internal Auditor) outlined the above report and confirmed that a review of the HRA would be included in a report at September's meeting.

RESOLVED **To agree the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2016-17.**

RECOMMENDED **To approve the Annual Report.**
TO COUNCIL

AC.059 **EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2016-17**

Darren Gilbert from KPMG outlined the changes to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in 2016-17 which would mainly result in the presentation of the accounts.

RESOLVED **To note the plan.**

AC.060 **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Chair