

MINUTES OF: THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 26TH NOVEMBER 2020

**PRESENT: Councillor Marriott (Chair)
Councillors Aldred, Essex, Haslam-Jones, Kenyon and Procter
Co-opted Member, Mr S McManus**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Ms K Spencer, Head of Finance (S151 Officer)
Mr A Ahmed, Acting Finance Manager
Mr M Baskerville, Audit Manager, LCC
Ms A Payton, Account Manager, Mazars
Mrs C Sharples, Committee & Member Services Manager
Miss G Ashton, Committee & Member Services Officer**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Haworth, Lythgoe, Neal and Serridge
Mrs C Law, Head of People & Policy**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Steen.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JULY 2020

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items of business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 No written questions had been submitted.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

6.1 The Chair had nothing further to report.

7. DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2019/20

7.1 The Head of Finance presented the draft Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 which were for members to note.

7.2 In response to comments made it was noted that:

- Grant Thornton were assessing the 2017/18 accounts and two factors were delaying the process i.e. Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE) and the Bus Company. The Head of Finance outlined the new rules around assessing/

valuing PPE.

- Rossendale's Council Tax arrears were on a par with other Local Authorities and that RBC's collection rate was good. It was confirmed that outstanding debts were not written off.

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee noted the content of the draft Statement of Accounts for 2019/20.

8. CORPORATE RISK REPORT Q1 & Q2 2020/21

8.1 The Head of Finance presented the report which asked members to note the Corporate Risk Register as detailed, including the addition of a new corporate risk. That members note the risk consequence, mitigation action and level of risk as detailed in the appendices.

8.2 In response to a comment made it was noted that:

- The Empty Homes Project would be included under Risk 1; Sustainability of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED:

- That the Audit and Accounts Committee noted the Corporate Risk Register as detailed in the report, including the addition of a new corporate risk.
- That members noted the risk consequence, mitigation action and level of risk as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

9.1 The Audit Manager, LCC outlined the report which asked members to consider the internal audit progress report for April – October 2020.

RESOLVED:

- That members considered the internal audit progress report for April – October 2020.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

10.1 The Audit Manager, LCC outlined the report which asked members to consider and approve the Internal Audit Charter.

10.2 In response to a comment made it was noted that:

- An update would be provided at the next meeting of how the Charter sat with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

10.3 The Committee expressed their thanks to the auditors.

RESOLVED:

- Members considered and approved the Internal Audit Charter.

11. STANDARDS AND WHISTLEBLOWING COMPLAINTS

11.1 As there were no items to report under Section E of the agenda, the Chair did not

propose that the meeting move into private session.

- 11.2 The Committee expressed their thanks to the staff for their hard work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and finished at 7.02pm

Signed (Chair)

Date