

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Councillor S J Carr

Councillors: P J Bales
M Brown
R Bullock
G Bunn
G S Hills
A Kingdon
J M Owen
S Paterson
C Tideswell
D K Watts

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R S Falvey, K Harlow and S Webb.

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting 17 July 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

32 MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY SHAREHOLDER SUB COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the minutes of the Advisory Shareholder Sub Committee held on 10 July 2023.

33 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee considered amendments to the constitution regarding Local Joint Consultative Committee, Policy Overview Working Group and the Events, Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group and in addition to provide a provision in the Constitution to allow for urgent items to be considered at full Council meetings.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- 1. The arrangement to add a provision for the consideration of urgent business at full Council meetings be approved,**
- 2. The amendments to the terms of reference for the Policy Overview Working Group be approved,**

- 3. The amendments to the terms of reference for the Events, Arts, Culture and Heritage Working Group be approved,**
- 4. The amendments to the Local Joint Consultative Committee Constitution be approved.**

34 GOING CONCERN STATEMENT

The Committee noted the assessment by the designated Section 151 Officer of the Council's Going Concern status.

The concept of a 'going concern' assumes that an authority, its functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This assumption underpins the accounts drawn up under the Local Authority Code of Accounting Practice and is made because local authorities carry out functions essential to the community and are themselves revenue-raising bodies (with limits on their revenue-raising powers arising only at the discretion of central government).

35 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee noted of the recent work completed by Internal Audit. Internal Audit had also reviewed progress made by management in implementing agreed actions within six months of the completion of the respective audits. Where agreed actions to address significant internal control weaknesses have not been implemented this may have implications for the Council.

36 ANNUAL COUNTER FRAUD REPORT 2022/23

The Committee were updated with the Annual Counter Fraud Report for 2022/23.

As required by the Council's Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy, the Annual Counter Fraud Report is presented to this Committee to provide a summary of the ongoing Counter Fraud work performed by Internal Audit and other relevant departments.

It was noted that no fraudulent activity within the Council had been noted during the financial year 2022/23.

37 GOVERNANCE DASHBOARD - MAJOR PROJECTS

The Committee were provided with an update to the 'Governance Dashboard' relating to the Council's major projects.

The Council currently has four major projects in progress: the Housing Delivery Plan, Stapleford Towns Fund, Kimberley Levelling Up Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

38 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The considered the Strategic Risk Register and the action plans identified to mitigate risks.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Strategic Risk Register and the actions to mitigate risks as set out be approved.

39 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.