

Council

23 October 2018

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Report of the Chairman of Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

1.0 Chairman's Report – 30 July 2018

- 1.1 The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee met on Monday, 30 July 2018.
- 1.2 The Committee considered and noted the work programme.
- 1.3 The Committee considered and noted the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Annual Report 2017/18 from Ian Morton of Veritau. Committee members questioned the internal auditor regarding risk management and audit assignment reports with "Limited assurance". Answers to these questions were full and explanatory. Ian Morton further explained the recent counter fraud success using "Data match" techniques, where Multi- agency comparisons of data can highlight inconsistencies.
- 1.4 The Committee considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.5 The Committee considered and accepted the Statutory Auditors report from Nicola Wright (Key Audit Partner) Ernst & Young LLP, asking questions regarding "Significant Risk " and NNDR (National non domestic rates) (**Business Rates**), bad debt provision & valuations of the councils investment property. The AGS committee satisfied themselves that the conclusions behind this report were sound.
 - (a) The Committee approved the Audited statement of Accounts for 2017/18
 - (b) The Committee approved the signing of the management representation Letter.
- 1.6 The Committee noted the "Annual report for information Governance", Sian Moore (s151 officer) gave the annual report on Freedom of Information/Subject Access Requests, and GDPR update
- 1.7 ***Review of Constitution***

The Corporate Director (s151 officer) (Sian Moore) presented a report advising of general updates to the constitution and seeking approval of specific suggested amendments in respect of Financial and Contract procedure Rules and Officers Code of Conduct. The AGS committee recommended approval of these changes.

This was **approved** for consideration by Full Council.
- 1.8 The Deputy Monitoring Officer (Paul Clark) presented a report on activities relating to the Council's members code of conduct, which was noted by the committee.

1.9 The committee considered and noted the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman's – Annual Review Letter 2018. The committee were pleased to note that of the 10 complaints and enquires received by the Ombudsman, None were upheld.

1.10 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

The Deputy Monitoring officer (Paul Clark) gave a report to committee members that no activity had taken place regarding RIPA.

2.0 Chairman's Report – 27 September 2018

2.1 The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee met on Thursday, 27 September 2018.

2.2 The Chairman affirmed that all items of business from the work programme were on the agenda. The Committee considered and **noted** the work programme.

2.3 The Committee considered and **noted** the internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report, from Ian Morton, of Veritau, and were satisfied that this report was PSIAS/CIPFA compliant.

2.4 The Committee considered and **approved** the updated Counter Fraud Framework and Corruption Strategy Action Plan & Report, from Jonathan Dodsworth, of Veritau.

2.5 The Committee considered and **noted** the Statutory Auditors Report on the 2017/18 Audit, from Mark Outterside of Ernst & Young

2.6 The Committee considered and **noted** the Partnership Governance Report and established that RDC had no significant risks regarding partnerships

2.7 The Committee supported the current approach to risk management, and **noted** the changes that have taken place in risk management. The committee also **noted** the updated risk assessments, and confirmed these as the key corporate risks for the council.

- 2.8
- (a) The Committee endorsed the commencement of a review of the constitution.
 - (b) The Committee agreed to set up an AGS working group to liaise with officers, and present a report to the AGS committee at the January 2019 AGS meeting for recommendation and onward to full council for ratification.
 - (c) All members are encouraged to participate in the consultation process. Suggestions from group leaders & ungrouped members should be sent to Katie Cullum (Democratic Services Manager), who will collate these into a coherent document for the working group.

2.9 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

The Monitoring Officer (Callum Mckeon) presented a report to committee that no activity had taken place regarding RIPA.

Contact Member: Councillor Geoffrey Linehan
Email: Cllr.g.linehan@richmondshire.gov.uk