

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND RISK AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

held on 21 June 2023 at 7pm

Present:

Councillors N. Bugbee, D. Clark, H. Clark, C. Davidson, N. Dudley, D. Eley, K. Franks, I. Grundy, B. Knight, J. Potter, A. Sosin, J. Sosin, M. Steel and N. Walsh

Also in attendance - Parish Councillor Jackson
Independent Persons, Mr Jeremiah, Mr Lamb and Mrs Mills

1. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor N Walsh be elected as Chair of the joint meeting. At this point Councillor Walsh took the Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Rajesh and Raven and the Independent Person Mrs Gosling.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Declaration of Interests

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

5. Public Question Time

No questions were asked or statements made.

6. Announcements

No announcements were made.

7. Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

Members considered a report on the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, which the Council's procedures required be approved at a joint meeting of the Audit and Risk and Governance Committees. The Code, which formed part of the Council's ethical framework, showed how it complied with the seven core principles for managing its governance

arrangements set out in the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)/SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) guidance.

The Code set out the criteria on which the Annual Governance Statement was based. The Statement in turn examined the measures in place to ensure that the Council had effective governance, risk management and internal control processes and was used to identify any shortcomings in those areas. The Statement highlighted those areas of governance regarded as important in 2022/23, how they were addressed and the progress made.

The Committee was also informed of some ongoing concerns which included the national delays in completing Local Government audits. Members were also informed that paragraph 3.9 of the Annual Governance Statement, covered actions taken in 2022/23, which included a review of financial rules and cyber security arrangements. Paragraph 3.10 listed areas for improvement within 2023/24, which included, the monitoring of the counter fraud action plan and the implementation of cyber security recommendations.

RESOLVED that

1. the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance 2022-23 and the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 be approved and;
2. The Draft Annual Governance Statement be published with the statement of accounts.

8. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business brought before the Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Chair