

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Audit and Governance Committee**
held on Thursday, 30th May, 2019 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor R Fletcher (Chairman)
Councillor R Bailey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Edwardes, B Evans, A Gregory, S Handley, S Hogben,
M Houston and A Kolker

Independent Co-opted Member

Mr P Gardener

Councillors in attendance

Councillors J Rhodes and A Stott

External Auditors

Alastair Newall, Mazars

Officer in attendance

Frank Jordan, Executive Director Place and Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Mark Taylor, Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services
Catherine Parkinson, Interim Director of Governance and Compliance
Alex Thompson, Head of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer)
Michael Todd, Principle Auditor
Josie Griffiths, Principle Auditor
Juan Turner, Compliance and Customer Relation Officer (for minute 7 only)
Lianne Halliday, Senior Manager – Procurement (for minutes 10 and 12 only)
Rachel Graves, Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor M Sewart.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Governance Committee be noted.

6 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2018/19 PROGRESS AND UPDATE

Alastair Newall of Mazars presented an update on the 2018/19 External Audit Plan.

It was reported that their detailed audit work was on track and that no significant matters had arisen which required reporting to the Committee. The Audit Findings and Action Plan would be reported to the July Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Update on the 2018/19 External Audit Plan be received.

7 MALADMINISTRATION DECISION NOTICES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN – DECEMBER 2018 – FEBRUARY 2019

The Committee considered a report on the Decision Notices issued by the Local Government Ombudsman between 1 December 2018 and 28 February 2019.

It was reported that three Decision Notices had been issued which concluded that there had been maladministration causing injustice – details of which were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE HEARING SUB COMMITTEE

The Interim Director of Governance and Compliance reported on the need for a meeting of the Hearing Sub Committee.

The investigation into the Code of Conduct complaint had now been completed. Arrangements would be made shortly to convene the Hearing Sub Committee and select the three members to sit on the Sub Committee.

9 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Plan for 2018/19.

It was noted that the Annual Monitoring Officer Report, Annual Information Governance Report , Annual Internal Audit Report and the Annual Risk Management Update would be brought to the July meeting of the Committee. These reports were key sources of assurance for the Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Plan be approved and that it be brought back to the Committee throughout the year for further development and approval.

10 CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULE NON-ADHERENCES

The Committee considered a report on the number and reasons for Waivers and Non-Adherences (WARNs) which had been approved between 1 February 2019 and 30 April 2019.

It was noted that the number of WARNs had significantly reduced in the last three years from 73 in 2016/17 to 21 in 2018/19, which was the result of improved forward planning, better recording of information and proactively working with services to ensure compliant contracts were in place.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

12 CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULE NON-ADHERENCES

RESOLVED:

That the WARNs be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.50 pm

Councillor R Fletcher (Chairman)