

# Minutes

## Audit Committee

- Venue: Committee Room
- Date: 25 September 2013
- Present: Councillor J Cattanach, Councillor M Dyson, Councillor Mrs C Mackman (Vice Chair), Councillor Mrs M McCartney, Councillor C Pearson (Chair) and Councillor Mrs S Ryder.
- Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mrs W Nichols.
- Officers Present: Roman Pronyszyn, Veritau; Gavin Barker, Mazars, Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151); Jodie Taylor, Lead Officer – Finance and Richard Besley, Democratic Services

### **16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **17. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

**To receive and approve the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 26 June 2013 and they are signed by the Chair.**

### **18. CHAIR'S ADDRESS**

The Chair welcomed councillors and officers and asked that Agenda Item 7 be brought forward as the first item of business.

### **19. A/13/12 – Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report and Opinion on the Financial Statements**

Presented by Gavin Barker, Audit Manager - Mazars, the report sought to feedback the findings of the audit for the year ending 31 March 2013.

The Audit Manager described the audit as very positive and Mazars were issuing an unqualified opinion and concluded that the Council had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources.

The Audit Manager confirmed that the Annual Governance Report has now been signed off and commented the report reflects well on the Council, highlighting their commitment to continuous improvement.

**RESOLVED:**

**The report was noted.**

**20 A/13/10 – Annual Governance Statement 2012/13**

The Executive Director (s151) presented the report for the Committee's approval which identified two areas for development which had been acted upon.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive and approve the report.**

**21. A/13/11 – Statement of Accounts (post audit)**

The Executive Director (s151) presented the Statement of Accounts for the Committee's approval and highlighted the key issues and variances.

Questions were raised on Long Term/Short Term Investments. The Director confirmed that low interest rates had continued over the course of the year and there had been an increase in the number of short term investments placed in order to achieve the best possible terms within the Council's treasury management policies.

The impact of government cuts were evident from the accounts and the Director also confirmed that the Council is constantly monitoring the developments on further Government cuts to local authority grants and reaffirmed the Council's position on its use of reserves to manage financial commitments and risk and support delivery of its corporate objectives.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive and approve the report.**

**22. A/13/13 – Counter Fraud Annual Report**

The Executive Director (S151) presented the report which outlined the Council's approach to counter fraud.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the report and note the actions and outcomes in Appendices A & B.**

**23. A/13/14 – Internal Audit Quarter 1+ Report 2013/14**

Roman Pronyszyn, Audit Manager at Veritau North Yorkshire, presented the Internal Audit Report for 2012/13. He informed the Committee that three internal audit reviews to Human Resources, Council House Sales – Right to Buy and Licencing Charges have been completed.

The Executive Director (s151) confirmed that a review of the costs relating to the administration of licencing is being carried out to ensure that fees are set to cover costs.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive and approve the report.**

The meeting closed at 5:58pm