

Minutes

Special Audit Committee

Venue: Committee Room

Date: 4 July 2014

Present: Councillor C Pearson (Chair), Councillor Mrs C Mackman (Vice Chair); Councillor J Cattanach; Councillor J Crawford and Councillor S Ryder

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M Dyson

Officers Present: Jonathan Lund, Deputy Chief Executive; Gillian Marshall, Solicitor to the Council and Richard Besley, Democratic Services

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

The Chair thanked the Committee members present for attending the special meeting.

17. A/14/8 – CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Presenting the report the Solicitor to Council set out the matters arising from the Audit Committee consideration of Part 4 - Rules and Procedures of the constitution on 12th of June 2014, before introducing the general rules around delegation of functions that apply to Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions.

The Committee had asked that we compare the protocol on Audio and Visual recording with that of North Yorkshire County Council and the Solicitor presented that paper as Appendix A for the Committee to consider.

The Solicitor confirmed that any constitutional changes made or to be made by the Committee would need to be reflected in any draft local protocol.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To consider the Draft Protocol on filming and recording the Council meetings and the proposed wording for the agendas and chairs announcements attached at Appendix A; and**
- (ii) subject to any amendments proposed to the Draft Protocol, to refer interim constitution changes relating to the recording of budget votes in the filming and recording of Council meetings to the Executive for comments and Council for approval in September 2014.**

The Solicitor presented the draft Terms of Reference of the Policy Review and Scrutiny and the draft Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee which also contained specific governance procedures to meet new legislation as Appendices B & C. The Committee felt it was not necessary to pursue the merging of the Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees at this time.

RESOLVED:

- (iii) To consider the draft Terms of Reference for a combined Policy and Review and Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the proposal to expand the remit of the Audit Committee to cover governance matters attached at appendices B and C.**

Following the meeting on 12 June the Solicitor has taken the constitutional changes agreed by the Committee and submitted a draft of Part 4 for the Committee to consider as Appendices D to G.

RESOLVED:

- (iv) To consider the revised rules contained in appendices D to G and approve them as reflecting the outcomes of the decisions at the meeting on 12 June.**

The Solicitor then presented Part 3 of the Constitution, regarding Responsibility for Functions and took the Committee through the various procedures.

Many parts referred to or repeated items that had already been amended in Part 4 and should also be changed accordingly, such as Committee numbers.

RESOLVED:

- (v) To consider, in the light of the advice offered in the report on the legal powers relating to delegation of functions, the provisions of Part 3 of the constitution and to instruct officers to draft any proposed amendments for consideration by the Audit Committee.**

The Solicitor agreed to redraft Part 3 to include all amendments as she had with Part 4 and would submit the draft to the next meeting.

At its next session on 29 July 2014 the Committee agreed to consider the remaining parts of the Constitution.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm