

Minute Extract

Audit & Governance Committee

Venue:	Microsoft Teams Live Event - Remote
Date:	Wednesday, 29 July 2020
Time:	5.00 pm
Present remotely via Teams Live Event:	Councillors K Arthur (Chair), N Reader (Vice-Chair), J Chilvers (from agenda item 8), D Brook, J Duggan, K Franks, E Jordan and J Mackman
Officers present remotely via Teams Live Event:	Karen Iveson (Chief Finance Officer), Alison Hartley (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Palbinder Mann (Democratic Services Manager), Nicola Hallas (Manager, Mazars LLP), Ed Martin (Audit Manager, Veritau), Jonathan Dodsworth (Assistant Director - Corporate Fraud, Veritau); and Dawn Drury (Democratic Services Officer)
Others present remotely via Teams Live Event:	Councillor C Lunn (Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources)

13 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION 2020 (A/20/7)

The Committee received the report, presented by the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, which provided an update on the amendments made to the Constitution of the Council following a review undertaken in her role as Monitoring Officer, as set out at appendix A of the report and appendix 1 of item 14 of the agenda.

The Committee noted that the changes which had been made by the Monitoring Officer under delegation were either administrative, as a result of legislative changes, or as approved by the Audit and Governance Committee in the resolution dated 10 April 2019 in relation to standards arrangements; and also included giving effect to new remote meeting procedure rules.

RESOLVED:

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To note the changes to the Constitution of the Council as set out at appendix A of the report and appendix 1 of item 14 of the agenda; and refer the same to full Council for noting.

16 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY DUE TO COVID-19 (A/20/10)

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer presented the report, which provided members with details of the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and senior officers under urgency procedures between 23 March 2020 and 14 July 2020 due to the Coronavirus lockdown, as attached at appendix 1.

The Committee was informed that on 23 March 2020 the Leader of the Council took a decision using his urgency powers to cancel all meetings to ensure that the Council could adhere to government guidance regarding social distancing during the Coronavirus crisis. It was further explained that until 4 April 2020, the Local Government Act 1972 required Members to be present in the room to vote, it was therefore not possible to undertake lawful decision making other than through delegation.

Members noted the urgent decisions taken by the Leader of the Council and senior officers at appendix 1 and would be reported to full Council by the Chair of Audit and Governance in the Chair's update which is given at each Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

To note the decisions taken under urgency by the Leader of the Council and senior officers between 23 March 2020 and 14 July 2020 due to the Coronavirus lockdown; and refer the same to full Council for noting.

The meeting closed at 6.38 pm.