



Councillor Karl Arthur – Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

Update to Council 18th September 2018

The Audit and Governance Committee has met once since the last update provided to the council on 17th July 2018. This meeting took place on Wednesday 25th July 2018.

Audit and Governance Committee Meeting – 25th July 2018

The Audit and Governance Committee agenda was very busy on 25th July 2018 - with no fewer than fifteen items on the agenda - and I would like to take this opportunity to thank committee members and officers for their support and comments during the course of the meeting.

Items covered during this meeting included the Risk Management Annual Report 2017/18, the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 and the Statement of Accounts 2017/18.

The committee was satisfied that the Statement of Accounts was a true reflection of the financial position of the council for the financial year 2017/18 and following a discussion and the approval of the Statement of Accounts by the committee were signed off by both myself (in my role as Chair of Audit and Governance) and the Chief Finance Officer, Mrs Karen Iveson.

As promised at the last meeting of the committee in April, the committee received a further update on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Act 2018 and specifically on how the authority was dealing with implementation following the enforcement of the GDPR Act at the end of May.

The committee was saddened to hear that this would be the last meeting of Mr. Gavin Barker (External Audit Manager) as he would be moving to a new position prior to our next meeting in October and took the opportunity to thank him for his efforts over recent years following the presentation of his External Audit Completion Report for 2017/18. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him well for the future and look forward to working with his successor.

The committee also considered an Internal Audit Report relating to the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, following an internal audit which identified that arrangement's for managing the risk required improvement. Management are developing an action to address the issues and the committee was satisfied that appropriate action is being taken.

The committee agreed to stay with the current times for holding meetings over the coming municipal year (i.e. 5pm) and confirmed the Audit and Governance Committee Work Programme for 2018/19 following its approval at the previous meeting.

Changes to Committee Membership

Since the committee last met in April there has been a change to the membership of the committee. Cllr. Mike Jordan has left the committee and been replaced by Cllr. John Cattanach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr. Jordan for all of his hard work whilst on the committee and in particular the fine way in which he chaired the committee over the several years that I have sat on it and would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Cllr. Cattanach and look forward to working with him over the coming year.

Councillor Karl Arthur
Chair, Audit and Governance Committee