



Councillor Karl Arthur – Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

Update to Council 18th December 2018

The Audit and Governance Committee has met once since the last update provided to the council on 18th September 2018. This meeting took place on Wednesday 24th October 2018.

Audit and Governance Committee Meeting – 24th October 2018

The Audit and Governance Committee agenda was busy on 24th October 2018 - with no fewer than ten items on the agenda - and I would like to thank committee members and officers for their support and comments during the course of the meeting.

Items covered during this meeting included the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2017-2018, the internal audit and counter fraud progress report, the external annual audit letter and the external audit progress report.

In addition, I had the opportunity to brief members of the committee that the government had announced that it was to strengthen rules preventing people found guilty of serious crimes or misbehaviour from serving on local councils.

In addition to the current rules of disqualification new measures are being looked at to disqualify those who are subject to the following:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions;
- Criminal Behaviour Orders;
- Sexual Risk Orders; and
- Anyone on the Sex Offenders Register.

The proposed changes follow a consultation in 2017 which Selby District Council responded to and I also reported to the committee that the authority would have liked the proposals to have gone further to include certain cases of fraud and that the rules for disqualifying MPs be brought in line with the rules for council candidates.

I also had the opportunity to brief the committee that a consultation on local government ethical standards by the Committee for Standards in Public Life, which was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee earlier in the year – and which Selby District Council was one of 317 authorities to respond to – was now being analysed and a report was due to be released in December 2018. This report is due to be brought before the Audit and Governance Committee in January 2019 for discussion.

Finally, the committee had the chance to welcome Nicola Hallas, who is replacing Gavin Barker as the external auditor from Mazars, to her first committee meeting.

Councillor Karl Arthur

Chair, Audit and Governance Committee