



Councillor Karl Arthur – Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

Report to Council - 16 July 2019

The Audit and Governance Committee has met once since the last update provided to the Council on 26th March 2019. This meeting took place on Wednesday 10th April 2019.

Audit and Governance Committee Meeting – 10th April 2019

I would like to take this opportunity to thank committee members and officers for their support and comments during the course of this meeting. In particular I would like to thank Councillor Stephanie Duckett who attended the meeting at short notice to ensure that it was quorate as several members of the committee had already indicated that they would be unable to attend the meeting and had submitted their apologies.

Items covered during this meeting included the Report of the Committee on Standards and Public Life and the update to Selby District Councils Code of Conduct; the Internal Audit Plan 2019/20; the Internal Audit, Counter Fraud, and Information Governance Progress Report 2019/20; the External Audit Strategy Memorandum; the External Audit Progress Report; and the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2018/19.

The most contentious item on the agenda was the “Report on the Committee on Standards and Public Life and the update to Selby District Council Code of Conduct”. Members received the report from the interim Solicitor to the Council. Concerns were raised by members regarding the recommendation from the Committee of Standards that criminal offences relating to the disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI’s) were to be removed. It was confirmed that if such an offence was deemed to have been committed then this would be referred to the police who would, depending on the severity of the offence, prosecute such items under alternative legislation.

Members also queried conduct within Parish and Town Councils and it was confirmed that the intention was that Parish and Town Councils would be asked to accept their district council’s code of conduct subject to any required change in current legislation.

The Committee also approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20.

Finally, as this was the final meeting of the Committee during this four year council cycle, I took the opportunity, from the chair, to thank all members and officers for all their hard work during not just the 2018/19 municipal year but through the entire previous four years.

As Councillors Ian Reynolds and Brian Marshall had already indicated that they would not be standing for election for another four year term I also took the opportunity to wish them well for the future. It was with great sadness that since the meeting took place that I have learned of the passing of former Councillor Marshall and wish to take this opportunity to pass on my deepest condolences to all his family and friends.

Briefing Session for New Members

Following the elections in May a briefing session was held in to inform members both old and new about the workings of the Committee. I am happy to report that several members of the committee attended this briefing and found it very informative.

Councillor Karl Arthur

Chair, Audit and Governance Committee