



## **Councillor Karl Arthur – Chair of Audit and Governance Committee**

### **Update to Council 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The Audit and Governance Committee has met once since the last update provided to the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019. This meeting took place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### **Audit and Governance Committee Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The Audit and Governance Committee agenda was very busy on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 - with no fewer than fourteen 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.

As this was the first meeting of the current council I took the opportunity to welcome new members to the committee.

Amongst the items we discussed at this meeting were the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit 2018/19, the External Audit Completion Report 2018/19 and the Risk Management Annual Report 2018/19 – each of which the committee was asked to note the progress. In addition we also discussed the Corporate Risk Register which the committee endorsed the actions of officers in furthering the progress of risk management.

The main issue discussed on the agenda during this meeting was the Statement of Accounts.

Members raised several queries relating to the Statement of Accounts which included:

- i) A query on the new homes bonus which the Chief Finance Officer addressed by confirming that this was a grant awarded by the government and credited to the income and expenditure account;
- ii) In relation to a query raised on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) officers confirmed that a shortfall in housing rent income of £49K had occurred, and this was due to the volume of void properties and the length of time it took to bring these properties back into use;
- iii) In relation to a query on how reserves were invested the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the councils Treasury Fund was supported by North Yorkshire County Council, which invest funds on Selby District Councils behalf, with a list of approved bodies to invest with. It was further

- confirmed that a range of options were required with a balanced long and short term investment strategy, ensuring risk was effectively managed;
- iv) The committee also noted that there was a £59K surplus on the General Fund after budgeted activities for the year, and that the HRA had a surplus of £1.5 million.

The committee declared itself satisfied that the Statement of Accounts was a true and fair reflection of the financial position of the council for the financial year 2018/19, and the committee unanimously approved the Statement of Accounts.

In addition to the above the committee also agreed that the Democratic Services Officer to the Committee circulate the Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20 to members of the Committee, and agreed that we would stick to the current times for holding meetings over the coming municipal year (ie. 5PM); and confirmed the Audit and Governance Committee Work Programme for the municipal year 2019/20.

### **Audit Committee Member Training**

Members of the committee and officers agreed that officers would provide members of the Audit and Governance Committee with training on the main item of discussion on the agenda for each meeting ahead of that meeting. It was also agreed that committee members would welcome a training session on the treasury function, and how the council invested its reserves and managed the Treasury.

It was agreed that each of these sessions would take place directly before the commencement of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting and would commence at 4:30pm.

There was a training session held directly ahead of the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> July which was provided by the Chief Finance Officer, and focussed on the role of the Audit and Governance Committee and what was expected of members who sat on that committee.

I commend my statement to the Council.

**Councillor Karl Arthur**

**Chair, Audit and Governance Committee**