

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 11th March 2016

Present: Councillor Hilary Richards (Chair)
Councillor Robert Barraclough
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Andrew Palfreeman
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Linda Wilkinson

- 1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2016 were approved as a correct record.
- 2 Membership of the Committee**
All Committee members were present.
- 3 Interests**
No interests were declared.
- 4 Admission of the Public**
It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.
- 5 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 6 Public Question Time**
No questions were asked.
- 7 Report of Members Allowances Independent Review Panel**
The Committee gave consideration to the report of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/2017, which set out the recommendations proposed by the Members' Allowances Independent Review Panel regarding the payment of allowances. The report of the Panel, which was attached at Appendix A of the report set out several recommendations, including the increase of a basic allowances payment to Councillors by 3.2% with effect from 1 April 2016. The draft Members'

Allowances Scheme for 2016/2017, taking account of the recommendations, was attached at Appendix B.

Following detailed discussion on the content of the report and the recommendations of the Panel, the Committee were of the view that the recommendation to Council should be for Council to determine whether or not to adopt the recommendations, taking into account the financial pressures currently facing the Council.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the report of the Members Allowances Independent Review Panel be received and noted.

(2) That the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 23 March 2016 with the recommendation that Council's consideration of the report is mindful of the financial pressures currently facing the Council, and the pending implications of the work of the Democracy Commission.

8 Review of Planning Committees - Progress Update

The Committee received a report which set out an overview of the first year of the operation of the Planning Committee structure to incorporate the establishment of Strategic Planning Committee. The report provided information on the review and potential changes and clarifications to terms of reference and officer delegation. It was noted that a report formulating recommendations from the issues arising within the report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee noted the content of the report and commented that, in terms of cross boundary applications, it may be appropriate to determine whether an application needs to be considered at a Committee meeting through consultation with ward members, rather than automatically submitting it to Committee.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Planning Committee Review Update be received.

(2) That the comments of the Committee regarding the content of the report be noted.

9 Certification of Grants Annual Report 2014/2015

The Committee received the KPMG Annual Report on grants and returns work 2014/2015. The report summarised the results of work that the Council's External Auditor, KPMG, had carried out on the Council's 2014/2015 grant claims and returns, which included the work that had been completed under the Public Sector Audit Appointment certification arrangements, and the work that has been completed on other grants/returns.

RESOLVED - That the Certification of Grants Annual Report 2014/2015 be received and noted.

10 Final Audit Plan 2015/2016

The Committee received the External Audit Plan for 2015/2016. The report set out information on financial statements audit planning and value for money

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arrangements work. The report advised that, planning work that took place during January and February 2016 involved risk management, determining materiality level and issuing the audit plan to communicate the audit strategy. Appendices to the report set out the key elements of the financial statements audit approach and also independence and objectivity requirements.

RESOLVED - That the Final Audit Plan 2015/2016 be received and noted.