

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 21st April 2017

Present: Councillor Hilary Richards (Chair)
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Linda Wilkinson

Apologies: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Stewart-Turner.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2017 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of (i) Minute No. 1 to reflect that apologies for absence had been submitted on behalf of Councillor Pattison and (ii) Minute No. 7, Resolution (2) to read that the report be submitted to Council on 22 March 2017.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda Items 10 and 11 would be considered in private session. (Minute No's 10 and 11 refer)

5 Deputations/Petitions

None received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Annual Report of Internal Audit - 2016/2017

The Committee received a report which provided information regarding Internal Audit Activity, and conclusions on the control environment and assurance provided in 2016/2017. The information related to activity in the year up to 31 March 2017 and provided an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. It also set out information relating to compliance with the requirements of Public Sector Audit Standards, and also detailed audit priorities for 2017/2018.

The Committee noted that there was sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Council's internal control was effective and that the proportion of audit work resulting in an assessment of at least adequate assurance was 81%. 17% had provided limited assurance, and the cases of no assurance (2%) related to schools and operational units. Discussion took place regarding financial governance within schools and the associated accountability.

The report advised that, although there were weaknesses in some systems of control, the overall framework of the Council's business and financial systems, processes, controls, management of assets, governance arrangements, and risk management, remained sound. It was concluded that the Council had an adequate and effective control environment.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the report be received and that it be noted that the Committee is content with the effectiveness of the internal audit function, the broader control environment, risk management and governance arrangements of the Council, and conformance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

(2) That the requirement for the external evaluation of Internal Audit to be undertaken in 2017/2018 be noted and that a report be submitted to a future meeting regarding the proposed arrangements.

8 Outside Bodies Update

The Committee received a report which provided an update on Outside Body representation that had occurred since 22 April 2016. The report advised that on 17 November 2016, Joanne Alvy had been re-appointed as the Council's representative to Holly Bank Trust by the Batley and Spen District Committee.

RESOLVED - That the update on representation of Outside Bodies be noted.

9 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED - That acting under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in the undermentioned Minute.

10 Quarterly Report of Internal Audit

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 21A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.)

The Committee received the quarterly report of Internal Audit, relating to Quarter 4; January 2017 to March 2017. Pursuant to Minute No 9 of the previous meeting, information was also received in relation to health and safety governance and monitoring. Arising from discussion on the content of the report, it was requested that the Head of Audit and Risk be requested to submit a report on the Council's framework of assurance to a future meeting.

(1) That the Internal Audit Quarter 4 (2016/2017) be received and noted.

(2) That the Head of Audit and Risk be requested to submit a report on the Council's overall framework of assurance to a future meeting of the Committee.

11 Annual Governance Statement

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 21A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.)

The Committee received, and were asked to note, the 2016/2017 draft Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED - That the draft Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017 be received and noted.