

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 25th June 2021

Present: Councillor Yusra Hussain (Chair)
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor Melanie Stephen
Councillor John Taylor

Observers: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Ex-Officio) – Chair of
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Erin Hill (Ex-Officio) – Chair of Standards
Committee

Apologies: Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Paul Davies (ex-Officio)

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the Meeting held on 22 April 2021 be approved as a correct record:

Annual Report of Internal Audit 2020/21 and Issues for 2021/22

1. That the 2021/22 Internal Audit Strategy and Charter be approved.
2. That the Committee notes that it is content with (i) the effectiveness of the internal audit function and its conformance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Code of Ethics (ii) the effectiveness of the Council's overall system of internal control (iii) the effectiveness of the broader control environment, risk management and governance arrangements of the Council and (iv) proposed audit plans.
3. That the internal audit plan for 2021/22 be approved and that the Committee give authority to the Head of Internal Audit to vary the proposed audit plan as considered necessary, subject to reporting back as part of the quarterly review process.

2 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K Pinnock, Lee-Richards and P Davies.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Admission of the Public

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It was noted that there were no matters listed for consideration in exempt session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

7 Proposed amendments to Council Procedure Rule 35

The Committee received a report relating to an amendment to Council Procedure Rule 35, pursuant to the submission of a Motion to the meeting of Annual Council on 19 May 2021. The report explained that the effect of the amendment, if adopted, would be to exclude Members of the Cabinet from being appointed to Strategic Planning Committee, or a Planning Sub-Committee.

The report outlined the proposed amendment, applicable to Council Procedure Rule 35 (2) (iii) (as shown in italics);

(2) The Council subject to any statutory provision:-

(iii) shall not appoint the Leader, the Deputy Leader of the Council or any Members of the Cabinet as members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or its Panels *or the Strategic Planning Committee or Sub-Committee thereof.*

The Committee was advised that, in debating the Motion at Council, it had been proposed that it was not appropriate for Councillors who have involvement in executive and strategic decision making, by virtue of being a Cabinet Member, to then participate in decision making processes at Strategic Planning Committee or either of the Sub Committees.

Discussion took place as to the implications of the proposed amendment and the Committee were asked to make a recommendation to Council as to whether the amendment to Council Procedure Rule 35 should be adopted.

RESOLVED – That a report be submitted to the next meeting of Council with a recommendation that the proposed amendment be adopted.