



MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE held within the Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, ALLOA, FK10 1EB, on THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2018 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Phil Fairlie, Chair
Councillor Les Sharp, Vice Chair
Councillor Dave Clark
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Bill Mason (S)
Councillor Helen Lewis (S)

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Depute Chief Executive
Garry Dallas, Executive Director
Stephen Coulter, Head of Resources and Governance
Stuart Crickmar, Head of Strategy and Customer Services
Celia Gray, Head of Social Services
Michael Boyle, Improving Outcomes Business Manager, Education Service
Gordon O'Connor, Internal Audit Manager
Lindsay Sim, Chief Accountant
Lindsay Thomson, Service Manager, Legal & Democracy (Clerk to the Committee)
Margaret Summers, Committee Services Officer

Tom Reid, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland (Item 04)

AF(18)53 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Watson. Councillor Bill Mason attended as substitute for Councillor Watson.

Councillor Helen Lewis attended as substitute for the vacant SNP position on the Audit and Finance Committee.

AF(18)54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AF(18)55 MINUTES OF MEETING: AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE 18 JANUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee held on 18 January 2018 were submitted for approval.

Moved by Councillor Kenneth Earle. Seconded by Councillor Les Sharp.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee held on 18 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

AF(18)56 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLANNING REPORT 2017/18

A report which attached the external audit planning report 2017/18 as Appendix A was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive. The external audit planning report set out the planned audit activity in respect of the audit of the financial year 2017/18 and the activity in relation to the risks and planned audit work and the scope and timing of the audit for 2017/18.

The Committee heard from Tom Reid, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland, and had opportunity to put questions to Mr Reid.

Motion

That Committee notes the proposed external audit plan for the 2017/18 financial year.

Moved by Councillor Phil Fairlie. Seconded by Councillor Les Sharp.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the proposed external audit plan for the 2017/18 financial year.

AF(18)57 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2017/18

A report which provided the Committee with an update on progress with completing the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan was submitted by the Internal Audit Manager. The Plan was agreed by the Audit and Finance Committee on 16 March 2017 and set out sixteen assignments to be completed by the team during the year.

Motion

That Committee notes the progress being made with completing the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the progress being made with completing the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan.

AF(18)58 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2018/19

A report which presented the Committee with an Internal Audit Plan for 2018/19 was submitted by the Internal Audit Manager. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017 (PSIAS) requires the Internal Audit Manager to prepare a risk based Internal Audit Plan setting out the section's annual work programme.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Phil Fairlie. Seconded by Councillor Dave Clark.

Decision

The Committee agreed to :

- Note the resources available to Internal Audit within the context of the joint working agreement with Falkirk Council.
- Approve the planned Internal Audit coverage for 2018/19, and
- Note that progress will be reported to the Audit and Finance Committee on an ongoing basis.

Action

Internal Audit Manager

AF(18)59 COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2017/18 – DECEMBER OUTTURN

A report which provided the Committee with an update on the financial performance of the Council in respect of both revenue and capital spend for the current financial year 2017/18 was submitted by the Chief Accountant.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Councillor Bill Mason.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note:

- (i) The forecast General Fund revenue underspend for the year of (£0.661m).
- (ii) Progress on delivering planned savings in the year.
- (iii) The favourable forecast outturn of £0.656m on the Housing Revenue Account.
- (iv) The underspend in General Services capital of £5.713m of which £2.102m is grant income received earlier than anticipated and £3.589m is proposed to be carried forward to 2018/19.
- (v) The forecasted underspend on HRA capital of £4.139m of which £0.447m is additional income from house and land sales. £0.051m of the underspend is proposed to be carried forward with the balance been taken as an underspend within the year.

Ends 1025hrs.

