



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the AUDIT COMMITTEE held Via MS Teams on THURSDAY 3
FEBRUARY 2022 at 9.30 AM.**

PRESENT

Councillor Dave Clark (Convenor) (Chair)
Councillor Martha Benny (Vice Convenor)
Councillor Donald Balsillie (S)
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Jane McTaggart (S)

IN ATTENDANCE

Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Committee)
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Carole Grant, Audit Scotland
Pamela Morrison, Audit Scotland
Ewan Murray, NHS Forth Valley
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)
Derek Barr, Procurement Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation (Partnership & Performance)
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)
Isabel Wright, Internal Auditor Manager, Falkirk Council
Heather Buchanan, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

AC(22)01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ellen Forson, Councillor Tina Murphy, Councillor Chris Dixon and Councillor Helen Lewis. Councillor Donald Balsillie was in attendance today as substitute for Councillor Lewis and Councillor Jane McTaggart was in attendance today as substitute for Councillor Forson.

AC(22)02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AC(22)03 CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25 November 2021 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

AC(22)04 AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided the Committee with the Audited Annual Accounts for the Council for the financial year 2020/21 to 31 March 2021. The report highlighted the material changes that have been made to the draft annual accounts during the audit period.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

The Committee agreed to :

1. Approve the 2020/21 Audited Annual Accounts;
2. Approve the submission of the Annual Accounts to the Controller of Audit, and
3. Note the contents of the report.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

**AC(22)05 ANNUAL REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND THE
CONTROLLER OF AUDIT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 2020/21**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, set out the findings arising from the work carried out by the External Auditors on the Audit on the 2020/21 Financial Statements.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Committee agreed to :

1. Note the content of the Independent Auditor's report;
2. Approve the content of the Letter of Representation (ISA 580); and
3. Note the content of the Annual Audit Report, the recommendations for improvement and the follow up on prior year recommendations.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

AC(22)06 COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2021/22 – OCTOBER OUTTURN

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Council as at October 2021, in respect of the General Fund (GF) revenue and capital spend and the achievement of savings to date, for the current financial year 2021/22, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital spend, for the current

financial year, 2021/22 and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) for the current financial year, 2021/22.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report on:

1. General Fund revenue is forecasted overspend of £0.018m for the year to 31 March 2022, following the allocation of earmarked Covid19 funding;
2. The allocation of Covid19 hardship funding to offset the projected overspend on the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) (para 4.6);
3. The Clackmannanshire element of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) forecasted overspend of £1.509m for the year to 31 March 2022;
4. The HRA forecasted revenue underspend for the year of £(0.501)m to 31 March 2022;
5. The HRA Capital forecasted underspend of £(2.682)m which will be proposed to carry forward to 2022/23;
6. The GF Capital Programme forecasted underspend of £(3.171)m as at October 2021, and
7. Progress to date in delivering the £2.126m approved savings programme, currently forecast to achieve 84.3%, as at 31 March 2022.

AC(22)07 EXCEPTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

It is a requirement of Contract Standing Orders that exceptions should be reported to the next available Audit Committee. The purpose of the report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided detail on Exceptions to Contract Standing Order submitted in the previous paper.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Martha Benny. Seconded by Councillor Denis Coyne.

Decision

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report on.

AC(22)08 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance, provided the regular update on Clackmannanshire Council's Corporate Risk Log (Appendix A). The updates were presented to the 25 November 2021 Audit Committee and are now repeated for information and continued scrutiny.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Martha Benny.

Decision

Having commented and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report as appropriate.

AC(22)09 COVID 19 DEBRIEF – LESSON LEARNED TO DATE

Council agreed on 10 September 2020 to conduct a debrief on the Council's response to the global Coronavirus pandemic, and subsequently agreed the process that would be undertaken in October 2020. Following a further report to the Audit Committee in June 2021, this report, submitted by the Senior Manager, Partnership and Transformation provided output on the debriefing process, findings and lessons learned to date.

Motion

That Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

Decision

Having commented and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report as appropriate.

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Councillor Clark confirmed that this would be his last Audit Committee that he would chair and thanked everyone.

Ends 1042 hrs