

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BABERGH AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Dave Busby – Chairman

Frank Lawrenson	Tony Roberts
Robert Lindsay	David Rose
Brian Riley	

James Cartlidge and Len Young were unable to be present..

1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3 PETITIONS

None received.

4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

6 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE

The Corporate Manager – Internal Audit introduced this item which provided an opportunity for Members to ask questions of the Corporate Manager and Zoe Thompson from the External Auditors (BDO) about key matters arising from the Audit Commission report ‘Protecting the Public Purse’.

The following were among the topics referred to:-

- The varying levels of risk which apply to different areas
- Adequacy of resources
- Procurement processes including a possible successor to the former Procurement Task Group
- Value for money / sustainability
- Feedback from tenants on works to properties – Corporate Manager to confirm current arrangements

RESOLVED

That the position be noted.

7 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/14 AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Corporate Manager – Financial Services introduced Paper [P50](#), asking Members to approve the final audited Statement of Accounts and the Auditor's report. Members noted that the Audit Committee's terms of reference now include responsibility for approving the Accounts.

Zoe Thompson from the External Auditors (BDO) was present at the meeting and took Members through the key aspects of their report (Appendix A to Paper P50) and, together with the Corporate Manager, responded to Members' questions on various items referred to in Appendix A and the Statement of Accounts (Appendix B to Paper P50), including

- SCC Pensions Fund arrangements
- Future of the New Homes Bonus
- Use of earmarked reserves / transformation budget
- SRP savings

Following their consideration of the report, Members emphasised the need for a robust process for monitoring the budget during the year, and the Corporate Manager – Financial Services confirmed that this would be in place on a quarterly basis. The Corporate Manager – Internal Audit was asked to respond, outside the meeting, to a query on page 15 of Appendix A to Paper P50 regarding the re-let times for council houses. A breakdown of the 'Grants paid' figure in Table 3 (page 5 of the Statement of Accounts – Appendix B to the report) – was also requested.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the External Auditor's report for 2013/14 attached at Appendix A to Paper P50 be approved.**
- (2) That the Statement of Accounts as set out in Appendix B to Paper P50, which reflects changes made following the completion of the audit, be approved.**
- (3) That the Corporate Manager – Financial Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee be authorised to make any minor / typographical changes to the Statement of Accounts prior to the Statement being finalised for sign off and publication no later than 30 September.**

At this point the Auditor was thanked by the Chairman, and left the meeting.

8 JOINT ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT – 2013/14

The Head of Corporate Resources submitted a report (Paper [P51](#)) providing Members with a comprehensive assessment of Treasury Management activity for 2013/14 as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

Members noted that the performance was in line with the Prudential Indicators set for 2013/14.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That the Treasury Management activity for the year 2013/14 as set out in Paper P51 and its Appendices be noted, subject to the incorporation of any minor amendments required.

Note:

It is a requirement of the legislation that the Annual Treasury Management Report is submitted to Full Council for noting.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.15 p.m.

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Chairman