

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Thursday, 31st March 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

Present

Mr.R.Hull – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) J.Bunnage	G.Stacey
(Mrs) A.Calvert	R.K.Turner
C.Davies	M.J.Watts
P.Griffiths	E.Webster
(Mrs) S.J.Jones	C.J.Willis

In Attendance

County Borough Councillor M.Webber

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.B.Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement

Mr.M.Crumbie – Operational Audit Manager

Wales Audit Office

Mr.T.Buckle, J. Herniman and Ms A.Lewis

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors W.J.David, G.Smith and D.Weeks.

43 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor E.Webster declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No.7 – Finalised Audit Assignments 2015/16 - "I am a Governor at Treorchy Comprehensive School".

44 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 25 January 2016.

45 WALES AUDIT OFFICE – REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mr. T. Buckle of the Wales Audit Office presented the Wales Audit Office Improvement Assessment 2015-16 in respect of the Council's Strategic Approach to Asset Management.

During his presentation, the Committee was informed that the Council had started to engage its communities in taking a proactive approach to the future management of its assets but there was scope to strengthen performance reporting arrangements to better support oversight and decision making in relation to asset management.

The proposal for improvement was that the Council should develop mechanisms for reporting a comprehensive picture of the management of its assets to Senior Managers and elected Members to enable ongoing oversight and to inform decision making.

Following a discussion, Mr. Buckle and Ms. Lewis were thanked for the report and it was **RESOLVED** to note the outcome of the Wales Audit Office 2015-16 assessment of the Council's Strategic Approach to Asset Management.

46 WALES AUDIT OFFICE 2016 AUDIT PLAN FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND 2016 AUDIT PLAN – RHONDDA CYNON TAF PENSION FUND

The Committee received the reports of the Wales Audit Office in relation to:

- the 2016 Audit Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council; and
- the 2016 Audit Plan – Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund.

Mr. Herniman of the Wales Audit Office outlined the contents of both reports during which he informed the Committee that it had not been possible at this point in time to provide a Work Programme for the performance element of the plan and that this would be reported back to the Council in due course.

Mr. Herniman also outlined an option to reduce the audit fees payable for Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee from £6,957 to around £500 and stated that this proposal was currently with Council Officers for a decision.

Following consideration of the reports, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

47 INTERNAL AUDIT PERFORMANCE

The Operational Audit Manager presented the report providing Committee Members with an update on the progress made by the Internal Audit Service in delivering the Audit Plan 2015/16 together with the performance of the Service up to 11th March 2016.

The Operational Audit Manager stated that it was anticipated that 85% of the Audit Plan would be completed in 2015/16 with twelve audits being carried forward into the 2016-17 Audit Plan.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

48 DRAFT ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2016/17

The Operational Audit Manager presented the Committee with the draft Annual Audit Plan for 2016/17, as outlined in the report of the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services.

The Committee was asked to consider the adequacy of the draft Annual Audit Plan 2016/17 having regard to its ability to monitor the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment of the Council based on the proposed audit reviews set out for the forthcoming year.

Following consideration of matter, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Annual Audit Plan for 2016/17 in its current form as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

49 FINALISED AUDIT ASSIGNMENTS 2015/16

The Operational Audit Manager provided the Committee with a summary of the following audit assignments completed between 1st January 2016 and 11th March 2016:

- Electoral Registration Services
- Heritage Service
- Prevention Services
- Registration Services
- Residential Care
- General Ledger and Accounting
- Highways Maintenance
- Management and Control of I.T. Assets
- NDR
- Data Management
- Treorchy Comprehensive School
- YGG Evan James
- YGG Llyn y Forwyn

and following consideration of the outcomes of the various assignments, it was **RESOLVED** –

(1) To note the information.

- (2) To refer the comments raised by Committee Members regarding the effectiveness of current procedures used by the Council for dealing with Pot Holes to the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) for consideration.
- (3) To request an overview of how the Council arranges a programme of work in relation to gulley and culvert cleansing.

50 INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

The Operational Audit Manager presented the 2016/17 Internal Audit Charter for the Committee's consideration and approval.

The Operational Audit Manager informed Members that the Internal Audit Charter was the document that defines the purpose, authority and responsibility of the Council's Internal Audit Service and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** To approve the Internal Audit Charter for 2016/17 , included at Appendix A to the report, as required by Attribute Standard 1000 of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

**R.HULL
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 6.05 p.m.