

London Borough of Islington

Audit Committee – 3 April 2014

Minutes of the Audit Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 on 3 April 2014 at 7.00pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Raphael Andrews, John Gilbert and Phil Kelly.

Also Present **Independent** David Bennett.
 Member

Also Present **Councillor** Andy Hull

Councillor Phil Kelly in the Chair

170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

None received.

171 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

Councillor Raphael Andrews substituted for Councillor Mouna Hamitouche.

172 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item A3)

None

173 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2014 (Item A4)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 30 January 2014 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

174 KPMG EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN (Item B1)

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

175 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN 2014/15 (Item B2)

The Committee welcomed the proposed audit on leaseholder service and major works charges and requested that this scope be brought forward to quarter one.

The Committee requested that, where possible, audits be extended to Partners for Improvement.

The Committee considered that it would be useful for a discussion to be held on the key issues regarding risk assessments and these to be reflected in the Audit plan.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Annual Internal Audit Plan be approved subject to the audit on leaseholder service and major works charges being brought forward to quarter one.
- b) That the Head of Internal Audit investigate the extension of the scope of audits to include Partners for Improvement and report back to the Audit Committee on the outcome.
- c) That a session on risk assessment be arranged for the new members of the Audit Committee following the election.

176 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (ITEM B3)

The Committee noted that the constant pinning of the chain of office to clothes caused damage to the fabric and meant that those clothes could not be worn for anything outside of their civic duties.

The Committee considered that the standard rate of tax would be a sufficient calculation for any tax refund as a clothing allowance.

RESOLVED

That the members' allowances scheme be amended to include

- a) the addition to the Special Responsibility Allowances of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, a sum equivalent to tax at the standard rate on £500 to assist them in the costs of clothing purchased for their civic duties and;
- b) provision for the continuance of special responsibility allowances during sickness, maternity and paternity absence for councillors on the same terms as Council employees as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

CHAIR