

Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) - 20 September 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 20 September 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Councillor Satnam Gill OBE (Chair), Councillor Olly Parker, Councillor Richard Greening and Councillor Flora Williamson

Councillor Satnam Gill OBE in the Chair

111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

David Bennett, Independent Member

112 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None

114 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2016 be confirmed and the Chair be authorised to sign them

115 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015-16 (INCLUDING PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS) AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT (Item B1)

Mohamed Sajid, Chief Accountant, made a presentation to the Committee.

During the presentation the following main points were made –

- The Auditor has found that the statement of accounts to be on time, complete and at this stage only minor adjustments had to be made.
- No material adjustments were proposed to the Council's accounts apart from minor presentational issues.
- It was noted that the Auditor intended to issue an unqualified conclusion that the Council had adequate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2015/16 audited Statement of Accounts, Pension Fund Accounts and the accompanying Annual Governance statement be approved.
- (b) That the Auditor's Annual Governance reports and value for money conclusion be noted.
- (c) That the action plan, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Annual Governance report, be agreed.

Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) - 20 September 2016

- (d) That the letter of representation, as set out at Appendix B of the report, be approved.

116 ABATEMENT OF PENSION DURING RE-EMPLOYMENT (Item B2)

Liz Haynes, Head of Human Resources, was present and outlined the report.

During consideration of the report the following main points were made –

- There was only one person at present in Islington that was subject to abatement and the report had been agreed by the Pensions Board

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that the current Policy to cease the abatement of pensions be amended, as outlined in the report.

117 MARKET SUPPLEMENTS - (APPENDICES TO BE CIRCULATED SEPARATELY) (Item B3)

Liz Haynes, Head of Human Resources, was present and outlined the report.

During consideration of the report the following main points were made –

- The boom in the construction industry had resulted in some posts not able to be filled and the Council needed to pay more competitive salaries in order to recruit suitable staff.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That approval be given to the market supplements, as outlined in paragraph 3.5 and the Appendix to the report.
- (b) That a report be submitted to the Committee in twelve months from the Head of Human Resources detailing whether the market supplements paid in Housing and Digital Services had resulted in attracting staff and whether market supplements have proved more cost effective than employing agency staff.

118 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16 (Item C1)

Michael Bradley, Head of Internal Audit, was present for discussion of this item.

During discussion of the report concern was expressed at the four high priority findings raised in relation to Police and legislation, reporting and working with internal and external partners in respect of anti-social behaviour and that these should be investigated and reported back to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report and the information provided in Appendices A to D of the report be noted and a report back on the ASB issue above be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

119 ANNUAL STANDARDS AND MEMBERS CONDUCT REPORT (Item C2)

David Daniels, Assistant Director of Law, was present for discussion of this item.

During consideration of the report reference was made to paragraph 3.3 and that updates on development opportunities should be sent to all Members of the Council in future.

Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) - 20 September 2016

Members expressed the view that there should be more training opportunities provided for Members and that they would raise this with the Chief Whip.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Annual report be noted and that in future updates on development opportunities should be sent to all Members of the Council.

The meeting ended at 8.05

CHAIR