

TITLE OF REPORT: ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 22 MARCH 2017 – ANTI-BRIBERY TRAINING

The following is an extract from the Draft Minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 22 March 2017.

79. REVIEW OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN 2015/16 AND LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Senior Lawyer presented a report in respect of progress against the improvement actions arising from the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2015/16, and to approve the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance.

The Senior Lawyer advised that the review of the 2015/16 AGS Action Plan for implementation in 2016/17 was set out in tabular form at Paragraph 8.1 of the report, with narrative description of progress against the various principles in the Action Plan in Paragraphs 8.2 to 8.9.

In respect of the Local Code of Corporate Governance, the Senior Lawyer reminded Members that this had been last reviewed in March 2016 under the previous CIPFA/SOLACE framework principles. New principles had since been issued, and hence the Local Code, attached at Appendix B to the report, had been updated to reflect those principles.

Returning to the review of the 2015/16 AGS Action Plan, the Senior Lawyer stated that some actions were ongoing, but largely these were on target to hopefully improve the governance arrangements for the Council.

The Senior Lawyer drew attention to Paragraph 8.7 of the report, concerning Anti-Bribery training via the e-learning module in the Council's Learning Management System. The training was launched in April 2016 as part of the Council's Anti-Bribery Policy Review, on the recommendation of the Shared Anti-Fraud Service Counter Fraud Manager. A Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) Review of the Council's ethical policies, reported in November 2016, contained a recommendation that all employees and Members should undertake this e-learning module.

The Senior Lawyer reported that, as at the date of this meeting, 271 out of 310 employees had completed the training, but that only 4 Members had done so. She therefore invited the Committee to make a recommendation to Council which it was hoped would assist in meeting the SIAS recommendation. She commented that the e-learning module would take about 15 minutes to complete.

The Committee supported the proposed recommendation to Council on the Anti-Bribery training, as well as noting the current position with the AGS Actions for implementation in 2016/17 and approving the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current position with the Annual Governance Statement actions for implementation in 2016/17 be noted; and
- (2) That the revised Local Code of Local Governance, attached at Appendix B to the report, be approved.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That all Members and employees undertake the Anti-Bribery e-learning module, as per the Shared Internal Auditor's (SIAS) report recommendation of November 2016.

REASON FOR DECISION: To provide the Committee with assurance that it is following through with its commitment to improve its governance arrangements; and to ensure the Local Code of Corporate Governance remains up to date and relevant.