

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Monday, 16th September, 2019 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Deakin-Davies, Morgan Derbyshire, Kay Tart and Steve Jarvis.

Having given due notice Councillor George Davies advised that he would be substituting for Councillor Morgan Derbyshire.

2 MINUTES - 29 JULY 2019

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 29 July 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded; and
- (3) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

RESOLVED: That the Shared Internal Audit Service Annual Report 2018/19 be considered and noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow the Committee to review, comment and challenge the current status of the Internal Audit Plan.

7 SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Shared Internal Audit Services Progress Report for the period to 30 August 2019 be noted;

(2) That the proposed amendments to the 2019/20 Annual Audit Plan be noted; and

(3) That the implementation status of High Priority recommendations be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow the Committee to consider the Shared Internal Audit Service Progress Report 2019/20.

8 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19: UPDATED ACTION PLAN FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED: That the progress made against the individual actions as outlined in the Action Plan for 2019/20 at Appendix A be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Annual Governance Statement must be considered by Members of the Committee and approved under Regulation 6(4)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations ('AAR') 2015/234, before the Statement of Accounts.

9 FRAUD POLICY REVIEW

RESOLVED:

(1) That the words 'that are reported' be removed from the first sentence of paragraph 5 within point 2, entitled Reporting on Page 63 of the Fraud Prevention Policy and would now read "The Council will investigate all suspicions, and where deemed appropriate the matter raised may be....."; and

(2) That The Fraud Prevention Policy be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: The new policy provides all of the information in relation to fraud and similar offences.

10 RISK AND OPPORTUNITIES MANAGEMENT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2019

RESOLVED: That the review/changes to the Corporate risks for the quarter, namely:

- Brexit risk to retain its current risk score of 9;
- Managing the Councils Finances to retain its current risk score of 9, be noted.

11 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they advise herself, officers or the Committee Clerk.

The Chair informed Members that the next meeting of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee would be held on 5 December 2019, where it was hoped that fraud training would take place prior to the meeting.

Councillor Michael Weeks formally requested that his sentiment of disappointment in the lack of attendance by Members at that evening's meeting and requested that the Members present reported back to their party leaders, be recorded in the minutes.