

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY (AUDIT AND VALUE FOR MONEY COUNCIL SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee held in a virtual environment on 21st September 2020 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors P. Hudson (Chairman), L. Beech, Mrs B. Brady, A. A. Chaudhry, A. Clarke, M. Fitzpatrick, D. F. Fletcher, S. Gaskin, Mrs V. J. Gould, H. Hall, M. Metcalfe, G. Raybould, S. Sankey and C. Sylvester.

Officers Present:

Sal Khan (Head of Service), Lisa Turner (the Chief Accountant), James Abbott (Corporate and Commercial Manager), Simon Allaway (Leisure Services Contracts Officer) and Monica Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Also Present:

Mr M. Green (Grant Thornton) and Mrs R. Deo (CW Audit).

123/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

124/20 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee held on 9th September 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L Beech		Councillor G Raybould
Councillor B Brady		Councillor S Sankey
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor A Clarke		
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor V J Gould		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor P Hudson		
Councillor M Metcalfe		
Councillor C Sylvester		

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit (Statement of Accounts) Committee held on 9th September 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor L Beech		Councillor S Sankey
Councillor B Brady		
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor A Clarke		
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor V J Gould		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor P Hudson		
Councillor M Metcalfe		
Councillor G Raybould		
Councillor C Sylvester		

125/20 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

126/20 **PROGRESS REPORT**

(CW Audit) The Internal Auditor gave a report summary of the work of internal audit, outlining the progress against the audit plan, the key findings and conclusions arising from their work, details of planned work and to update the Committee on the progress made in implementing previously agreed recommendations.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

127/20 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT QUARTER 1**

Members considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer in accord with the Council's financial regulations, presenting the forecast outturn position in relation to the Council's revenue budget, capital programme of expenditure and treasury management activities.

The Chief Accountant gave a short presentation on the first quarterly report in the annual cycle of financial monitoring for the financial year 2019/2020.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

128/20 **THE REDMOND REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members received a verbal update on the Redmond Review Recommendations commissioned by the Government.

The Chief Accountant informed the Committee that in June 2019 the Government requested that Mr Tony Redman conducted a review on the effectiveness of local audits and the transparency of local authority financial reporting. Twenty three recommendations had been made and she outlined the key issues that were relevant to this Council.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

129/20 **CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1**

The Report of Sal Khan, Head of Service, regarding the Quarter 1 Performance was considered. The Corporate and Commercial Manager provided an overview of the report to the committee.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

130/20 **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ESERVICES**

Councillor Metcalfe, on behalf of the sub-group, gave a brief update on the progress made for the review of the Council's eservices. He reported that the draft final report would be circulated to Member of the Committee prior to the next meeting for their consideration.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

131/20 **REVIEW OF THE LEISURE CENTRE CHARGES**

It was agreed that this item would be discussed in part B of the meeting.

132/20 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received an update on the scrutiny work programme.

Discussions took place and an opportunity for questions followed.

The Chairman requested that Members gave consideration to two topics on the work programme that could be reviewed. He also asked for volunteers to form the two sub-groups to conduct the next reviews.

It was agreed that the following topics would be reviewed:

- Council's Waste Management Services and
- the Council's IT System

It was also agreed that Councillors P Hudson, S Sankey and C Sylvester would form the sub-group to review the Council's Waste Management Services; and Councillors A Clarke, M Metcalfe and S Sankey would form the sub-group to review the Council's IT System.

NOTED

133/20 **PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

Members considered the Public Executive Decision Records.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED

134/20 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions submitted to the Committee prior to the meeting.

135/20 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:

That the next meeting take place on Thursday 19th November 2020 at 6.30pm.

136/20 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda:

LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE REPORT

REVIEW OF THE LEISURE CENTRE CHARGES

PRIVATE EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS

Chairman