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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford on Monday, 31 January 2022**

[A YouTube recording of the meeting is to be found online.](#)

### **Present:**

#### **Members:**

Councillor L Barber	
Councillor A Hedley	Chairman
Councillor D King	
Councillor L Mackenzie	
Councillor A McQuiggan	
Councillor M Platt	
Councillor L Shaw	
Councillor C Siddall	
Atta Ul Haque	

#### **ECC Officers:**

Christine Golding	Chief Accountant
Nicole Wood	Executive Director Corporate Services
Stephanie Mitchener	Director, Finance
Paul Turner	Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Michael Hayes	Democratic Services Assistant

### **Also Present:**

Councillor S Barker

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Hedley, the Chairman of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, welcomed those in attendance.

### **1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report of Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies were received from Councillor Hoy and Councillor McGurran.
3. No declarations of interests were made.

The Chairman, Councillor Hedley reminded members that any interests must be declared during the meeting if the need to do so arose.

## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 December were approved as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

## **3. National scheme for local auditor appointments**

The Committee received a report (AGS/01/22 and appendix) from Nicole Wood, Executive Director for Corporate Services, presented by Christine Golding, Chief Accountant.

### **Resolved:**

That the Committee recommends to Full Council that we opt into the PSAA's national procurement arrangement for auditor appointments for contracts due to start from 1 April 2023 and covering the audit of accounts for the financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28.

## **4. Measures to improve local audit delays**

The Committee received a report (AGS/02/22) from Nicole Wood, Executive Director for Corporate Services, presented by Christine Golding, Chief Accountant.

Members noted their disappointment over the delay in completing the 2020/21 external audit, and it was agreed the correspondence sent to the PSAA would be shared with the Committee.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **5. Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation for Financial Management**

The Committee received a report (AGS/03/22) from Nicole Wood, Executive Director Corporate Services. Christine Golding, Chief Accountant, introduced the item and gave a presentation which can be found [here](#).

### **Resolved:**

That the Committee supports the proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation for Financial Management, as appended to the report, and recommends their adoption by full Council.

## **6. Work Programme**

The committee received a report (AGS/04/22) from Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance, that detailed the planned ongoing programme of work.

It was noted that an additional meeting may be required for the purpose of receiving the external auditor's completion reports.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**7. Date of next meeting**

The committee noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday 21 March 2022 at 10:30am at County Hall, Chelmsford.

**Chairman**