



AUDIT and STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday 21st September 2016

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Jean Cunningham, in the Chair.

Councillors Joanne Greenwood, Tony Harrison, Wajid Khan, Margaret Lishman, Andrew Newhouse and Andy Tatchell

OFFICERS

Helen Seechurn	-	Director of Resources
David Donlan	-	Accountancy Division Manager
Howard Hamilton-Smith	-	Principal Accountant
Ian Evenett	-	Internal Audit Manager
Nadeem Ukadia	-	Senior Auditor
Alison McEwan	-	Democracy Officer

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Louise Gaskell
Colin Crowther

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Marianne Dixon - Grant Thornton

52. Apologies

Apologies were received from Karen Murray of Grant Thornton.

53. Minutes

IT WAS AGREED That the Minutes of the meeting held on held on 22nd June 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

54. Standards Complaints updates

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted.

55. Statement of Accounts, Letter of Representation and Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

David Donlan thanked members for their attendance at the Accounts Workshop in August.

Alongside the Statement of Accounts, members also considered the letter of representation which would be submitted to the external auditors; and the signed copy of the Annual Governance Statement which had been approved by the Committee in June 2016.

He explained that there had been a small number of amendments to the draft Statement of Accounts that had been presented at the workshop, but that the highlight information remained the same; and the auditor was satisfied that the accounts presented a true and fair view of the Council's financial position.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

- That the Statement of Accounts be approved, and signed by the Chair.
- That the Letter of Representation be approved and signed by the Chair, and the Director of Resources.

56. Grant Thornton – Audit Findings Report 2015/16

Marianne Dixon from Grant Thornton presented the report, which informed Members that the audit had been completed, and that there had been no issues identified by the audit, although there had been some minor amendments.

Members attention was drawn to the Value for Money assessment within the document. In the 2014/15 document, the emerging strategic partnership was identified as a potential risk. The report for the current year had reviewed the project and risk management arrangements and concluded that the risk was mitigated, and that proper controls were in place.

Members complemented the finance team on the preparation of a set of accounts with so few issues to such a tight timescale.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the audit findings be noted.

57. Internal Audit Progress Report – Q1 2016/17

Ian Evenett introduced the report, which outlined progress against the internal audit plan. This showed 4 completed reports, with a significant number of audits underway. As a result, a recommendation had been made to the Monitoring Officer with regard to member declarations of interest.

The team was also working on other initiatives, including the National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise, which may highlight areas for further investigation; and a peer review in conjunction with Lancashire colleagues, to ensure Public Sector Internal Audit Standards were being met.

An Officer within the team had also been successful in gaining the 'Certified Internal Auditor' qualification.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted.

58. Work Programme 2016/17

Alison McEwan introduced the Work Plan for the remainder of the year. Members had requested that an item on Partnership Governance be added to the work plan. This would be following the completion of the first year of the partnership, and brought to the first meeting of 2017/18.

There was a request for the implications of 'Brexit' to be considered at the January meeting as part of the Strategic Risk Register report.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted.