



AUDIT and STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday 23rd September 2015

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Jean Cunningham, in the Chair.

Councillors Paul Campbell, Tony Harrison, Mathew Isherwood and Margaret Lishman.

OFFICERS

Helen Seechurn	- Director of Resources
David Donlan	- Accountancy Division Manager
Ian Evenett	- Internal Audit Manager
Imelda Grady	- Democracy Officer

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Louise Gaskell

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Marianne Dixon	- Grant Thornton
Karen Murphy	- Grant Thornton

13. Apologies

Apologies were received from Colin Crowther and Councillors Joanne Greenwood, Ann Royle and Andy Tatchell

14. Minutes

IT WAS AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on held on 24th June 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15. Annual Governance Statement 2014-15

Members considered the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2014/15.

Members noted that the AGS had been considered at the June meeting but was presented again here alongside the externally audited Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 to demonstrate the governance and internal control environment in which the Statement of Accounts had been prepared

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 be approved.

16. Statement of Accounts 2014/15

Members considered the annual accounts for 2014/15 which had been produced to the required UK accounting standards and which had been externally verified by Grant Thornton as a true and fair view of the Council's financial position.

The Accountancy Division Manager confirmed that the Statement of Accounts reflected a small number of changes that had been agreed with the external auditors during the course of the audit.

Members also received the letter of representation from the Director of Resources to Grant Thornton, the external auditors.

Marianne Dixon presented the external auditor's risk assessment enquiries to management and those charged with governance which showed the effective two-way communication between the auditors and the Committee, as 'those charged with governance'. She reported that she was satisfied with the responses given.

Karen Murray presented the external auditors Audit Findings report for Burnley Borough Council and circulated a revised page 18 to the document to show the correct figures of £58k for the underspend, £1,070k for transfers to earmarked reserves and the general fund balance of £1.4m. Karen reported that there were no matters of concern that needed to be brought to the attention of the Committee and that the standard of working papers was excellent.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

1. That the audited Statement of Accounts 2014/15 be approved and signed by the Chair of the Committee;
2. That the letter of representation to the External Auditor be approved and signed by the Chair and the Director of Resources.
3. That the findings of the external auditors be noted.

17. Internal Audit Progress Report (quarter one) 2015/16

Members received for information a report on the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Section for the period 1st April to 30th June 2015.

In total six audit reports had been produced. Additional work had been conducted in the procurement of a strategic partner for the Council; the continued internal audit service to Burnley Leisure ; and the assistance and advice given to the waste contract team which had resulted in a 'Make a Difference' award for team of the year.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Internal Audit progress report be noted.

18. Work Programme 2015/16

The Work Plan for 2015/16 was outlined.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Work Plan be agreed.