

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND RISK AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

held on 15 June 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Councillors H. Ayres, K. Bentley, A.E. Davidson, N.A. Dudley, D.G. Jones, J.M.C. Raven, E.J. Sampson, M. Sismey, A.B. Sosin, M.S. Steel. A.G. Thorpe Apps and N.M. Walsh

Also in attendance - Parish Councillors, Chiswell and Saltmarsh
Independent Persons, Mrs Gosling and Mrs Mills

1. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor H Ayres be elected as Chair of the joint meeting. At this point Councillor Ayres took the Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Clark and Knight and Parish Councillor Jackson. Councillor Davidson substituted for Councillor Clark.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Declaration of Interests

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

5. Public Question Time

No questions were asked or statements made.

6. Announcements

No announcements were made.

7. Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

Members considered a report on the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22, which the Council's procedures required be approved at a joint meeting of the Audit and Risk and Governance Committees. The Code, which formed part of the Council's ethical framework, showed how it complied with the seven core principles for managing its governance arrangements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.

The Code set out the criteria on which the Annual Governance Statement was based. The Statement in turn examined the measures in place to ensure that the Council had effective governance, risk management and internal control processes and was used to identify any shortcomings in those areas. The Statement highlighted those areas of governance regarded as important in 2021/22, how they were addressed and the progress made. The Committee was also informed of some ongoing concerns which included the national delays in completing Local Government audits. Members were also informed of the areas set for improvement or monitoring in 2022-23 which were, the Financial Rules, Cyber Security, Financial Management Code Action Plan, Member Code of Conduct and the Community Governance Review.

In response to a question from the Committee, it was noted that assurances for the Statement were sought via officers assessing risks and also the Corporate Governance Group. The Committee heard that this was an officer group, where key officers could discuss governance issues and raise areas for improvement.

RESOLVED that

1. the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance 2021-22 and the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 be approved and;
2. The Draft Annual Governance Statement be published with the statement of accounts.

8. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business brought before the Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.

Chair