

Minutes of the meeting of the Audit,  
Governance and Standards Committee held at  
9.30 am on Tuesday, 20th July, 2021 at  
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stone Cross,  
Rotary Way, Northallerton, DL6 2UU

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Present

Councillor N A Knapton (in the Chair)

Councillor	P Atkin	Councillor	Mrs B S Fortune
	P Bardon		K G Hardisty
	D B Elders		

Also in Attendance

Councillor M S Robson

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R W Hudson

**AGS.3 Minutes**

**The decision:**

That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 23 March and 18 May 2021 (AGS.18 to AGS.27 and AGS.1 to AGS.2), previously circulated, be signed as a correct records.

**AGS.4 Politically Restricted Posts**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented a list of Politically Restricted Posts for approval.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

To comply with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**The decision:**

That the list of Politically Restricted Posts annexed to the report be approved.

AGS.5 **Annual Report to Cabinet on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee's Activities 2020/21**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

This report provided an analysis of the work undertaken by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee up to 31 March 2021.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

To comply with the Council's Constitution and the Terms of Reference of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee to report annually to Cabinet.

**The decision:**

That:-

- (1) the content of the report be agreed; and
- (2) the report be submitted to Cabinet.

AGS.6 **Annual Internal Audit and Counter fraud and Anti-Corruption Report 2020/21**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Finance and Commercial (S151 Officer) presented a report which provided an update on the audit and counter fraud work undertaken in 2020/21. The annual report attached at Annex 1 to the report summarised the outcomes of audit work undertaken in 2021/21. The report provided an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's framework of governance, risk management and control. An annual report setting out counter fraud activity and performance was also attached at Annex 2 to the report.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

In accordance with chapter 5 of the Council's Audit Charter, the Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual report to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. The report is used by the Committee to inform its consideration of the Council's annual governance statement.

**The decision:**

That:-

- (1) the results of the audit and counter fraud work undertaken in 2020/21 be noted; and
- (2) the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the framework of governance, risk management and control operating within the Council be accepted.

AGS.7 **Update on Statement of Accounts 2019/20, 2020/21 and Statutory Auditor Report**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

This report informed the Committee that, further to the reports to this Committee in October 2020 and March 2021, the Financial Report – Statement of Accounts – 2019/20 had not yet been finalised as the audit was still ongoing. It was the aim that the audit would be finalised by the end of September 2021 for the Audit, Governance and Standards meeting where the Audit Results Report would be accepted by the Committee and the Financial Report 2019/20 would be approved.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

The Committee acknowledged that the external audit of the draft statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 had not yet been completed by the Council's external auditors, Ernst Young LLP.

**The decision:**

That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.00 am

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Chairman of the Committee