

Minutes of the meeting of the Audit,  
Governance and Standards Committee held at  
9.30 am on Tuesday, 19th July, 2022 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 22 March and 17 May 2022 (AGS.20 - AGS.30 and AGS.1 – AGS.2), previously circulated, be signed as 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 Head of Internal Audit Report and Counter Fraud Annual Report  
2021/22**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Chief Executive presented a report which provided an update on the audit and counter fraud work undertaken in 2021/22. The annual report attached at Annex 1 to the report summarised the outcomes of audit work undertaken in 2021/22. The report provided an opinion of Substantial Assurance 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.

The Committee wished to acknowledge that the overall opinion of the Internal Audit of Substantial Assurance was the highest standard that could be awarded to the authority. The Committee also wished to congratulate all those staff involved in helping identifying and reducing instances of fraud through counter fraud management.

**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 2021/22 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.

Note: Councillor M S Robson (in attendance) left the meeting at 9.47am.

AGS.6 **Annual Report to Cabinet on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee's Activities 2021/22**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Chief Executive presented a draft report which analysed the work undertaken by the Committee for the year to 31 March 2022. Under the Committee's Terms of Reference, it was proposed that the report would be presented at Cabinet in September 2022.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reasons for the decision:**

To agree the content of the draft report prior to submission to Cabinet.

**The decision:**

That:-

- (1) the content of the report be agreed; and
- (2) the report be submitted to Cabinet in September 2022.

The meeting closed at 10.08 am

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Chairman of the Committee