

# Public Document Pack

Minutes of the meeting of the AUDIT,  
GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE held at 9.30 am on Tuesday,  
28th January, 2020 at MAIN COMMITTEE  
ROOM, 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	M G Taylor
	D B Elders		P Thompson
	R W Hudson		

## Also in Attendance

Councillor	M S Robson	K G Hardisty
	P Bardon	

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G W Dadd

## AGS.26 MINUTES

### THE DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 October 2019 (AGS.14 - AGS.23), previously circulated, be signed as a correct record.

## AGS.27 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT - REVIEW OF ACTIVITY

All Wards

### **The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented a report advising the Committee that the Council, like many public authorities, was governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). This Act ensured that public authorities complied with their obligations under the Human Rights Act when undertaking investigations which might interfere with the rights of individuals. The Act introduced safeguards on activities such as surveillance undertaken by public bodies. The Committee had now been given responsibility for RIPA matters. This would involve the Committee reviewing the Council's Policy Statement from time to time and receiving quarterly reports on any activities which had been authorised under RIPA.

### **Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

To comply with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

**THE DECISION:**

That:-

- (1) the current Policy on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act be approved;  
and
- (2) it be noted that no RIPA authorisations were made by the Council during the period 23 October to 21 January 2020.

AGS.28 **SECOND INTERNAL AUDIT AND COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT 2019/20**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Finance and Commercial (S151 Officer) presented a report informing Members of progress made to date in delivering the Internal Audit Plan and Counter Fraud work.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

To take account of the statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

**THE DECISION:**

That the work undertaken by Internal Audit and the Counter Fraud Team in the year to date be noted.

AGS.29 **STATUTORY AUDITOR - QUARTERLY BRIEFING**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Finance and Commercial (S151 Officer) presented a report which provided an update on the Council's statutory auditor, Ernst & Young LLP, activities to date.

A representative from Ernst & Young LLP attended the meeting to provide the update and answer questions.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

To take account of the work undertaken to date by the Council's statutory auditor.

**THE DECISION:**

That the Local Government Audit Committee briefing from Ernst & Young LLP be noted.

AGS.30 **STATUTORY AUDITOR - ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS 2018/19**

All Wards

**The subject of the decision:**

The Director of Finance and Commercial (S151 Officer) presented a report which submitted the Statutory Auditor's Annual Grant Claims and Returns for 2018/19, a copy of which was attached at Annex A of the report.

**Alternative options considered:**

None.

**The reason for the decision:**

To fulfil the Committee's Terms of Reference regarding consideration of the Statutory Auditor's Annual Grant Claims and Returns Report.

**THE DECISION:**

That the Statutory Auditor's Annual Grant Claims and Returns Report for 2018/19 be received.

The meeting closed at 10.20 am

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Chairman of the Committee

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