

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Audit and Governance Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 17 November 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.30 pm and ended at 3.48 pm

14 Public speaking

Cllr Paul Millar ask Grant Thornton a question on purdah and how this was audited.

15 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 28 July 2022 were confirmed as a true record.

16 Declarations on interest

None

17 Matters of urgency

There was one late report which is recorded at Minute 24.

18 Confidential/exempt item(s)

None

19 Internal Audit Plan Progress November 2022 (2022/23) - SWAP

The report provided an update on the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan as at end of October 2022.

RESOLVED:

that the progress made in delivery of the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan be noted.

20 EDDC Sector update - Grant Thornton

The report provided the Committee with a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to the council.

RESOLVED:

that the sector update be noted.

21 EDDC Audit Plan 2021/22 - Grant Thornton

The report provided an overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the council for those charged with governance.

RESOLVED:

that the Audit Plan 2021/22 be noted.

22 **Partnership Review 2022**

Partnership information for the 2021/22 financial year until March 2022 was supplied to allow the Committee to monitor the status of EDDC's partnerships. This follows the year-end review of partnerships by responsible officers for 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

that the current status of EDDC's partnerships following the full partnership review undertaken in July 2022 be noted. The Committee requested whether LED should be added to the partnership register be looked into and that the register show which Councillors oversee each partnership.

23 **STRATA ICT Audit 2021/22 -DAP**

Strata Service Solutions had three founding partners (The Partners), East Devon District Council (EDDC), Exeter City Council (ECC) and Teignbridge District Council (TDC). The creation of Strata in 2014 represented an innovative approach that had positioned the Partners well as many Councils around the country increasingly look to enter similar partnership arrangements.

RESOLVED:

that the Strata ICT Audit 2021/22 be noted. The Committee asked that SWAP and DAP discuss with each other whose responsibilities' were whose to ensure there was complete internal audit coverage.

24 **Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance**

The Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing & Monitoring Officer explained that the Council's Code of Corporate Governance, which sets out the council's overarching approach to its corporate governance arrangements was due for review. It was a requirement of the Constitution that Cabinet consult with Audit & Governance in relation to the approval, implementation and monitoring of the Code of Corporate Governance.

RESOLVED:

that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that the current Local Code of Corporate Governance should continue without amendment and be reviewed again in two years' time, unless circumstances require an earlier review.

25 **RIPA update**

The RIPA Senior Responsible Officer advised that there had been no requests for RIPA authorisation since the last committee.

26 **Audit and Governance Forward Plan**

Members noted the contents of the Committee Forward Plan for 2022/23.

Items to be considered at the January 2023 committee included:

- Internal Audit Activity – Quarter 3 2021/22
- Audit Committee update
- Audit Findings Report

- Statement of Accounts including Governance Statement 2020/21
- Risk Management review – half year review
- Review of the Anti-Fraud Theft and Corruption Policy, Anti-Bribery Policy and Whistleblowing Policy
- RIPA update

Attendance List

Councillors present:

S Hawkins (Chair)
P Millar
T Woodward

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Arnott
J Rowland

Officers in attendance:

Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance
Beth AC Garner, Grant Thornton
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing (and Monitoring Officer)
John Symes, Finance Manager
Alastair Woodland, SWAP
Craig Moodie, DAP

Councillor apologies:

D Barrow
C Brown
S Gazzard
R Lawrence
P Twiss

Chair

Date: