

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting held on Monday, 30th November, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor David Walters in the Chair;

Councillors John Baird, Christian Chapman,
Arnie Hankin, Kevin Rostance and Dave Shaw.

Apology for Absence: Councillor Jim Blagden.

Officers Present: Bev Bull, Lynn Cain, Peter Hudson and
Mike Joy.

In Attendance: Mandy Marples and Hannah McDonald (CMAP).

AC.18 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

AC.19 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 October 2020, be received and approved as a correct record.

Councillor Christian Chapman requested that his concerns in relation to the annually recurrent underspend on the Housing Capital Programme be noted.

AC.20 Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2020/21

The Council's Chief Accountant presented the report and asked Members to consider the Treasury Management mid-year report, written in compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice, which covered the following:

- An economic update for the 2020/21 financial year as at 30 September 2020;
- The Council's capital position and 6 month performance (including prudential indicators);
- The Council's investment portfolio for 2020/21;
- The Council's borrowing position for 2020/21.

RESOLVED that

a) the mid-year report, as presented be received and noted;

- b) the changes to the 2020/21 Prudential Indicators following in year changes to the 2020/21 Capital Programme, be approved;
- c) the reported breach of Treasury Management Strategy, as outlined in the report, be noted.

AC.21 Audit Progress Report

Mandy Marples, CMAP's Audit Manager, presented the report and summarised audit progress between 6 October 2020 and 17 November 2020, with one assignment having been completed during that time in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants. The audit has received a substantial assurance rating and 5 low risk recommendations had been agreed with 3 already being implemented.

With regard to the recommendation tracking, Members acknowledged that the impact of the pandemic was continuing to cause delays in some areas and since publication of the agenda, some of the recommendation implementation dates for the 'Depot Investigation' and 'Procurement' reviews had been reconsidered and duly extended.

Councillor Chapman acknowledged that where some recommendations that were linked to the Digital Services Transformation (DST) Programme were still pending, these would now be further progressed due to recent recruitments and the DST moving at a greater pace.

The Corporate Finance Manager (and Section 151 Officer) in response to a request at the last meeting, advised Committee that the contract for the replacement fire entrance doors to Council owned flats had now been awarded and works were due to commence in January 2021. It was reported that most of the fire doors had been replaced with doors that met the new level of accreditation, however, the remaining doors (around 30) would be installed early in the new year.

RESOLVED

that audit assignment progress as at 17 November 2020, as presented to Committee, be received and noted.

AC.22 Section 100A Local Government Act 1972; Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED

that in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in respect of which the Proper Officer considers the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

AC.23 Mid Year Investment Property Performance 2020/21
(Exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3)

The Council's Chief Accountant gave Members an update regarding the 6 month performance and monitoring of the Council's Commercial and Investment Property portfolio.

RESOLVED

that performance in relation to the Council's Commercial and Investment Property portfolio, as presented, be received and noted.

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm

Chairman.