

Unconfirmed



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Audit and Governance Committee** held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, Melton on **Monday, 2 March 2020** at **6.30pm**

Members of the Committee present:

Councillor Edward Back, Councillor Judy Cloke, Councillor Tony Cooper, Councillor Linda Coulam, Councillor Geoff Lynch, Councillor Chris Mapey, Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte, Councillor Ed Thompson

Other Members present:

Councillor Maurice Cook

Officers present:

Sarah Davis (Democratic Services Officer) and Siobhan Martin (Head of Internal Audit)

1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

No apologies for absence were received.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Item for Information - Rent Arrears

The Committee noted the Item for Information in relation to rent arrears. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources stated that he was pleased with the progress, pointing out that it reflected the efforts of the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) to improve working practices and was also due to the change to the tolerance treatment level of Universal Credit claimants before an automatic reassessment was required which impacted on payments. He added that the new software that had been invested in was also clearly doing its job.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee receive a further update for information in six months to ensure the arrears were continuing to go in the right direction. The Cabinet Member stated that the next ARP meeting was at the end of March 2020 so he would know more after that. He added that the ARP was also bringing in Consultants to review working practices.

Clarification was sought on whether there was still a five week wait for claims to be processed as some claimants were getting into debt whilst they waited. The Cabinet Member responded that he did not know but suggested that the Member contact ARP directly. It was noted that a Member Training/Briefing Session on the ARP and Universal Credit was currently being arranged.

RESOLVED

That the information relating to the current position on rent arrears be noted and Officers be asked to provide another item for information on this in approximately six months' time.

5 Audit and Governance Committee's Work Programme

The Audit and Governance Committee received and reviewed their Work Programme for the remainder of the 2019/2020 Municipal Year. The Chairman referred to the decisions made during the meeting and it was agreed that the Work Programme would be updated accordingly. Members also noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services had requested that a report on Standards be added on to the Work Programme for the 30 March 2020 meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's Work Programme be updated in accordance with the decisions made at the meeting and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services' report on Standards be added.

6 Exempt/Confidential Items

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

7 Exempt Minutes

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

8 Internal Audit: Data Protection Status Update

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

9 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) Compliance - External Assessment

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

10 Internal Audit Reports Recently Issued

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

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Chairman