

AUDIT COMMITTEE

DECISIONS / ACTIONS – 23 MARCH 2021

Present:	Councillors R Bradburn, Cannon (Chair), Lancaster, Legg, Minns, Montague, Petchey, Rankine and Wales and Mr W Bush (Independent member) Mr S Richardson (Director for Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)), Ms A Rulton (Head of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer)), D Wilkinson (Chief Internal Auditor), Mrs J Fru (Deputy Chief Internal Auditor), Ms V Errington (Corporate Accounting Manager) and D Imbimbo (Committee Manager).
Also present:	N Harris, N Clarke (Ernst & Young)
Apologies:	Councillor Gilbert (Vice Chair) and Mr Farookhi (independent Member)

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
4	Minutes That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 27 January 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair as such.		Committee Manager
6, 7 and 8	Annual statement of accounts Annual Governance Statement External auditors report That; 1. Note the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 as presented, and,		Director of Finance and Resources

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the Accounting Policies for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 be approved, and, 3. the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2020 be approved, and, 4. the Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer), following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair's, be delegated authority to make any final amendments to the Accounts arising from outstanding audit work prior to the signing of the accounts by the auditor, and, 5. the Committee note and share concerns expressed in the report dated the 12 March 2021 by the Controller and Auditor General on the "Timeliness of Local Auditor Reporting on Local Government in England 2020" as to the delays in reports being issued. While acknowledging the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic on these Audits notes that the situation was in difficulty prior to this. 6. the Committee recommends that as the delay in these audits is causing difficulties in planning for the future and recognising issues as soon as possible the Cabinet ,working with the Director of Finance and Chief Internal Auditor, follow the words of the said report in that they seek to identify ways to co-operate and Collaborate with all bodies involved in the local audit system to improve a declining situation and lobby strongly in doing this from the Government through the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. 		
9	<p>Corporate Risk Register</p> <p>That;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report be noted 2. The Committee be presented a briefing in respect of Information Governance risk including the email retention policy. 		Chief Internal Auditor