

Eden District Council

Accounts and Governance Committee Minutes

Date: 27 September 2018 Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith Time: 6.45 pm

Present:

Chairman:	Councillor A Connell	
Vice Chairman:	Councillor K Greenwood	
Councillors:	P Godwin	R Orchard
	V Kendall	V Taylor
	J C Lynch	
Officers Present:	Clive Howey, Director of Finance	
	Matthew Neal, Deputy Chief Executive	
Others Present:	Gareth Kelly, Grant Thornton	
Democratic Services Officer:	Vivien Little	

AGc/20/09/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jackson and Councillor Lynch.

AGc/21/09/18 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes AGc/14/07/18 to AGc/19/07/18 of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 July 2018 be signed by the Chairman and confirmed as a correct record of those proceedings.

AGc/22/09/18 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

AGc/23/09/18 External Review of the Council's Internal Audit Service

Members considered report F58/18 from the Director of Finance which sought to advise Members of the process to secure the external review of the Council's Internal Audit service, as required by Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

Proposed by Councillor Orchard
Seconded by Councillor Taylor

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the appointment of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy to carry out an External Assessment of the Internal Audit service be noted;
2. the action taken to date and proposed method of assessment and scope of the proposed external assessment be approved; and
3. this Committee will receive the review report at its meeting on 29 November 2018.

AGc/24/09/18 Annual Review of the Anti-Fraud, Theft, Bribery and Corruption Strategy and Response Plan

Members considered report F60/18 from the Director of Finance which sought to undertake the annual review to the Council's existing Anti-Fraud, Theft, Bribery and Corruption Strategy and Response Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Kendall

and **RESOLVED** that the updated draft Anti-Fraud, Theft, Bribery and Corruption Strategy and Response Plan be approved.

AGc/25/09/18 Internal Audit: Implementation of Recommendations

Members considered report F61/18 from the Director of Finance which set out progress on implementing the agreed recommendations from the internal audit reports.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Orchard

and **RESOLVED** that progress against the agreed recommendations be noted.

AGc/26/09/18 Annual Fraud Report 2017-2018

Members considered report F66/18 from the Director of Finance which sought to give Members an update on how the Council has sought to detect and prevent fraud in 2017-2018, and also included information that met the mandatory disclosure requirements of the Local Transparency Code 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

and **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

AGc/27/09/18 Complaints and Compliments - Ombudsman's Annual Report and the Council's own Procedure

Members considered report G87/18 from the Deputy Chief Executive which advised Members of the contents of the annual report which had been received from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) upon complaints relating to

the Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 and on complaints raised under the Council's own procedure.

Proposed by Councillor Godwin
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

and **RESOLVED** that the comments made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman in the Annual Report be noted.

AGc/28/09/18 Review of the Constitution

Members considered report G86/18 from the Deputy Chief Executive which sought to enable consideration to be given to carrying out a review of the Constitution.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Godwin

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. A review of the Constitution be carried out; and
2. A Panel comprising Councillor Connell, Councillor Greenwood and Councillor Kendall, with Councillor Orchard acting as a substitute, be established and to report back with recommendations on any necessary changes to the Constitution.

AGc/29/09/18 Request for Dispensation

Members considered report G88/18 from the Deputy Chief Executive which advised Members of a request for a dispensation to a Member who is currently unable to attend any Council meetings due to illness and asked them to endorse the request.

Proposed by Councillor Connell
Seconded by Councillor Orchard

and **RESOLVED** a dispensation be granted for Councillor Trevor Ladhams from attending meetings of the Council by reason of illness for a period of six months commencing on 27 September 2018. Any extension to the dispensation to be subject to a further approval by the Committee at the appropriate time.

AGc/30/09/18 External Audit Reports

With the consent of the meeting the Chairman moved this item to after item 12 on the agenda.

Gareth Kelly, Grant Thornton arrived at 7.10pm.

Members considered report F67/18 from the Director of Finance which set out one report from the Council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Orchard

and **RESOLVED** that the report of the External Auditor be noted.

The Chairman thanked Gareth Kelly for his attendance at this meeting.

AGc/31/09/18 Internal Audit: Completed Reports and Progress against Annual Plan

With the consent of the meeting the Chairman agreed to move this item to the final item on the agenda to enable discussion of the Part II appendix.

AGc/32/09/18 Any Other Items Which the Chairman Decides are Urgent

No items of urgent business were discussed at this meeting.

AGc/33/09/18 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting of this Committee was confirmed as 29 November 2018.

AGc/34/09/18 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public (including the press) should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A of the Act.

AGc/35/09/18 Internal Audit: Completed Reports and Progress against Annual Plan

Members considered report F65/18 from the Director of Finance which sought to advise Members of the findings and recommendations of reports that had recently been completed by the Council's Internal Audit Services, and advised Members of progress against the agreed Annual Plan for 2018-2019.

Following discussion of the Part II appendix, Members agreed to return to open discussion for the approval of the recommendation.

Proposed by Councillor Orchard
Seconded by Councillor Godwin

and **RESOLVED** that the contents of the report were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm

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