

# **Eden District Council**

## **Accounts and Governance Committee Minutes**

**Date: 18 April 2019 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 Taylor
Standing Deputies:	Councillor G Nicolson OBE
Officers Present:	Suzanne Fairer, Head of Revenue and Benefits Peter Notley, Assistant Director Finance Lisa Tremble, Assistant Director Governance
Others Present:	Jamie Wright, Grant Thornton
Democratic Services Officer:	Vivien Little

### **AGc/75/04/19 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kendall, Councillor Nicolson attended as substitute.

### **AGc/76/04/19 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the public minutes AGc/46/02/19 to AGc/67/02/19 of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 February 2019 be signed by the Chairman and confirmed as a correct record of those proceedings.

### **AGc/77/04/19 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Nicolson declared an interest in agenda items 4 as he was a Director of the Heart of Cumbria Limited. Upon taking advice from the Monitoring Officer, he stated that he would not vote on this item.

### **AGc/78/04/19 External Audit Reports**

Members considered report F21/19 from the Director of Finance which introduced one report from the Council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton.

Proposed by Councillor Orchard  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

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

### **AGc/79/04/19 Universal Credit update**

Members received a verbal update from the Head of Revenue and Benefits on the impact of the effects of the introduction of Universal Credit in Eden, as agreed at minute number AGc/50/02/19 on 21 February 2019.

**The Chairman thanked the Head of Revenue and Benefits for her attendance at this meeting.**

**The Head of Revenue and Benefits left the meeting at 19.38.**

### **AGc/80/04/19 Annual Governance Statement**

Members considered report F28/19 from the Director of Corporate Services which sought to set out the detail supporting the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Local Code of Governance (Local Code). Members were asked to confirm that the AGS and Local Code fairly reflect the corporate governance arrangements in place at the Council.

Proposed by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Orchard

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the Action Plan be updated to include a review of the membership of statutory officers on the senior leadership team, and this be reported back to Accounts and Governance Committee at a future meeting.
2. subject to the above, the draft Annual Governance Statement, Local Code and Action Plan was endorsed.

### **AGc/81/04/19 Local Government Ethical Standards**

Members considered report G37/19 from the Director of Corporate Service which requested that the Accounts and Governance Committee note the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and considered any actions arising to feed into future work programming.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the Accounts and Governance Committee noted the report; and
2. the Accounts and Governance Committee noted that the Monitoring Officer will consider the list of best practice recommendations, and will discuss with the Cumbrian Monitoring Officers and CALC any potential revisions to the existing code of conduct and/or guidance for a further report back to the Committee.

## **AGc/82/04/19 Response to External Review of the Accounts and Governance Committee**

Members considered report F26/19 from the Director of Corporate Services which responded to the recommendations of an external review of the Accounts and Governance Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Orchard  
Seconded by Councillor Godwin

and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the Committee agreed to perform a self-assessment on an annual basis from 2019/20 and report this to Council.
2. the Committee will be provided with enhanced regular training and supporting materials; and
3. the Committee agreed to subscribe to CIPFA's Better Governance Forum at a cost of approximately £2,000 per annum.

## **AGc/83/04/19 Member Induction and Training programme 2019/2020**

Members considered a verbal update from the Assistant Director Governance on the Member Induction and Training timetable for 2019/2020, as agreed at minute number AGc/66/02/19 on 21 February 2019.

**Members thanked the Member Services Team Leader and her officers for providing a comprehensive training schedule for all elected members for 2019/2020.**

## **AGc/84/04/19 Any Other Items Which the Chairman Decides are Urgent**

No items of urgent business were discussed at this meeting.

## **AGc/85/04/19 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of this Committee will be confirmed at Annual Council on 16 May 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm

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