

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2016 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mrs R Camamile - Chairman
Mr P Wallace – Vice-Chairman

Mr DS Cope, Mr KWP Lynch, Mrs H Smith (for Mr LJP O'Shea), Miss DM Taylor and Mr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Mr C Dickens, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Mr A Sohal, Ernst & Young LLP

Officers in attendance: Ilyas Bham, Julie Kenny, Joseph Matharu, Rebecca Owen and Ashley Wilson

447 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor O'Shea, with the substitution of Councillor Smith authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.

448 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Cope and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Wallace entered the meeting at 6.32pm.

449 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

450 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2015-16

The External Auditor presented the Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2016. It was noted that there was a significant reduction in audit fees due to the setting of the scale of fees & charges. In response to a member's question, it was confirmed that the August 2016 target for completion of the audit should be met.

451 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received an audit progress report which updated on the finalised audits for Housing Repairs and Markets. It was noted that no high level risks had been identified, and only one medium risk in each area.

Attention was also drawn to the changes to the Internal Audit Plan, which had been agreed with management. It was also noted that the auditors would review recommendations of the previous internal auditor to ensure any outstanding were followed up.

452 BUSINESS RATES AND POOLING UPDATE

Members received an update on business rates performance from 1 April to 31 December 2015 and pooling arrangements for 2016/17.

Councillor Williams arrived at 6.46pm.

453 SUNDRY DEBTS QUARTER 3 2015/16

Members were informed of the position in relation to sundry debts at 31 December 2015. It was noted that it was common for the level of debt to increase in-year, and that there were no reasons for concern. Members were reminded of the level of debt relating to homelessness, which it was not appropriate to pursue.

454 TREASURY MANAGEMENT TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

A report on the council's treasury management activity was presented and it was acknowledged that the authority had not borrowed to the maximum permitted. Members requested that the information contained in the appendix be summarised in the report in future on an exception basis to reduce paper.

455 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN - QUARTER 3 2015/16

The committee received an update on the revenue and capital outturn at the end of the third quarter of 2015/16. It was noted that a small underspend was being forecast.

Members expressed concern about the small print in the appendices and asked if consideration could be given to presenting the information in a different way.

456 PERFORMANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2015/16 QUARTER 3 OUTTURN

Members received the performance and risk management framework position for the third quarter of 2015/16. It was highlighted that only nine indicators were not meeting the target, and there were seven that were currently benchmarked against other authorities. In relation to risk, it was reported that there were 13 net red risks.

A member drew attention to the reference on page 99 to the section 106 agreement for Barwell SUE and asked if had been completed. In response it was noted that it had not yet been completed, but the information would be updated in the next quarter's report.

457 WORK PROGRAMME

Dates of future meetings were discussed and it was noted that the calendar of meetings for 2016/17 would be agreed at the next Council as it had been revised to improve the reporting pathway and relationship between committees.

(The Meeting closed at 7.06 pm)

CHAIRMAN