

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**AUDIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES****Date: Tuesday 11 November 2014****Time: 6.00 p.m.****Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

Present: Councillors: L Chester (Chair), J Gardner (Vice-Chair), P Bibby, D Cullen, and M McKay.

Also Present: B Mitchell (Independent Member), H Maneuf (Shared Internal Audit Service) and T Blackman (Grant Thornton)

Started: 6.00 p.m.

Ended: 6.33 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hollywell and A McGuinness.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 3 SEPTEMBER 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 3 September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee (held jointly in part with the Statement of Accounts Committee) held on 24 September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER.

The Committee had before it the Annual Audit Letter from the Council's External Auditors, Grant Thornton.

The Committee was advised that the Housing Benefit Subsidy Return had recently been completed. The Council could expect an unqualified marking in respect of this report.

In reply to a question concerning the timing of the revaluation of the Council's housing stock the Committee was advised that the exercise

was undertaken in April in order to ensure that a true value of the stock was reflected in the Council's accounts.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received an update to the Internal Audit Progress Report as of 31 October 2014.

The Committee was advised that since the publication of the agenda the Council Tax audit had been completed and a marking of 'full assurance' given.

The Committee noted that the revised audit plan enabled more robust monitoring of the Audit Team's performance against the plan.

In reply to a question concerning the focus of the proposed fuel audit the Committee was advised that it would centre on the security of storage and use of vehicle fuels.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

6. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS.

None.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No.88.

2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

PART II

8. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER – QUARTER 2 2014/2015.

The Committee had before it the Strategic Risk Register for Quarter 2 of 2014/2015.

Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by the Officer.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Strategic Risk Register Quarter 2 2014/2015 (Appendices A1-A5) be noted.
2. That developments on risk management issues (as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report) be noted.

9. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

Chair