

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Date: 5 September 2016**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

**Present:** Members: Councillors: M McKay (Chair), L Chester,  
J Gardner, J Hollywell and G Lawrence

**In Attendance:** Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) officers and C Wood (SIAS  
Audit Manager).

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 6:00 pm  
End Time: 7:12 pm

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Burrell, D Cullen, A McGuinness and Independent Member B Mitchell.

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE- 8 JUNE 2016**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 8 June 2016 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **3. ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2015/2016 AND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SHARED ANTI-FRAUD SERVICE (SAFS)**

The Committee received a report on the Annual Fraud Report 2015/2016 and progress report on the Shared Anti-Fraud Service.

Members were informed that a number of events were being scheduled to promote and publicise the costs of fraud, to inform staff, members and local residents including the impact this had on Council Services. He also suggested that specific training would be provided to Members by December 2016.

In response to a question, the Officer advised that Shared Services had resulted in savings, especially compared to when the service was provided in house, and indicated that he would circulate the comparative cost figures and savings to Members of the Committee.

The Chair informed Members that the Shared Anti-Fraud Service had been shortlisted for the “Excellence in Fraud Prevention” category of the Government Counter Fraud Awards taking place in London on 13 September 2016.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Annual Fraud Report for 2015/2016 is noted.
2. That progress to deliver the Council Anti –Fraud Action Plan 2016-2017 is noted.

#### **4. SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016**

The Committee received a report on the Shared Internal Audit Service Annual Report. 2015/2016.

The Officer advised the Committee that SIAS had exceeded its two key performance indicators.

In response to a question, Chris Wood (Shared Anti-Fraud Service) advised Members that the Service had made a surplus and that he would circulate more information on this to Committee Members.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Shared Internal Audit Service Report 2015/2016 is noted.

#### **5. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2016/2017**

The Committee received a report on Internal Audit Progress for the period to 12 August 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Internal Audit Progress Report for the period to 12 August 2016 is noted.

#### **6. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF 2015/2016**

Members were advised of a typographical error in paragraph 4.7.5 of the report, it should read – in ‘terms of variable investments there are currently only two banks quoting openly in the market which offer instant access accounts, Lloyds and Handelsbanken’.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council be recommended to approve the 2015/2016 Annual Treasury Management Review’.

#### **7. URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

The Chair informed the meeting that she had responded to questions from the external auditor, Ernest Young with regards to SBC’s financial statement and this letter had been circulated to Members of the Committee.

#### **8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. Members considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

## **PART II**

### **9. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER QUARTER 2015/2016**

The Committee received the Strategic Risk Register report.

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

The Officer informed Members of a typographical error with regards to recommendation 2, to replace the word 'paragraph 4.' with the word 'section 4'.

It was **RESOLVED**

1. That the latest Strategic Risk Register is noted.
2. That developments on risk management issues as outlined in Section 4 of the report is noted

### **10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

## **CHAIR**