

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Meeting:	Audit Committee	
Date:	Tuesday, 8 June 2021	
Place:	Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Teresa Callaghan (Chair), Myla Arceno, Julie Ashley-Wren, Stephen Booth, Graham Lawrence, Nick Leech, Maureen McKay, Claire Parris, Loraine Rossati and Mr Geoffrey Gibbs (Independent Member)

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Apologies were received from Councillor John Gardner. There were no declarations of interest.	
2	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR	
	It was proposed and seconded that Councillor John Gardner be appointed as a Vice-Chair for the Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.	
3	MINUTES - 24 MARCH 2021	
	It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
4	TERMS OF REFERENCE	
	The Committee noted the Terms of Reference.	
5	2019/20 EXTERNAL AUDIT OF SBC ACCOUNTS - PROGRESS	
	Robert Garnett from Ernest & Young (E&Y) provided an update to Members on the External Audit of accounts for 2019/2020. He advised Members that the Audit of accounts for 2019/20 had not been concluded yet. He explained that he was liaising closely with the Council	

officers to reach a conclusion.

He informed Members that there were several areas being reviewed, such as Asset Valuations, Capital and financial statements, and that it was a complicated matter.

Strategic Director (CF) explained that Covid-19 had impacted upon the service, however, progress had been made, and officers were working together with E&Y to bring this to a conclusion and present it to the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the verbal update on External Audit accounts for 2019/20 be noted.

6

ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The SIAS Client Audit Manager updated Members on the Annual Assurance Statement and on the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2020/21. He advised Members that based on the internal audit work undertaken for 2020/21, the overall opinion on financial systems and non-financial systems was of satisfactory assurance.

He further explained about the targets set by the SIAS Board for the internal Audit performance 2020/21, which were largely met and were positive.

The Committee was also briefed on the SIAS audit charter and card payment compliance.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Annual Assurance Statement for the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2020/21 be noted.
- That the result of the self-assessment required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards be noted.
- That the SIAS Audit Charter be approved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the scope and resources for internal audit were not subject to inappropriate limitations in 2020/21.
7	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21 AND LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
	<p>The Senior Performance and Resilience Officer presented Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2020/21. She advised Members on the content of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 and on the changes to the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance. As a result of Covid-19, the timeline was extended for the publication of the draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21. She explained that the Annual Governance Statement would now be published by the end of July, subject to any further changes and recommendations by the Committee. It would be approved by the Statement of Account Committee in due course.</p> <p>She further explained that the Local Code of Corporate Governance had recently been reviewed and was not significantly changed, but there were a few changes summarised in the officer report.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the changes to the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance be approved. • That the Annual Governance Statement be recommended by the Audit Committee to the Statement of Accounts Committee.
8	URGENT PART I BUSINESS
	None.
9	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS
	<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <p>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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.</p>

	2. That Members considered the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.	
10	PART II MINUTES - AUDIT COMMITTEE - 24 MARCH 2021	
	Noted.	
11	STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER	
	<p>The Senior Performance and Resilience Officer provided an update in relation to the Strategic Risk Register.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the latest Strategic Risk Register be noted. • That the development on risk management issues be noted. 	
12	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
	None.	