

Council – 9th September 2014
Recommendation from Cabinet
5th August 2014

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Audit and Procurement Committee held at 4.00 pm on
Monday, 18 August 2014

Present:

Members: Councillor D Galliers (Chair)

Other Members: Councillors S Bains, L Harvard, T Sawdon and M Welsh.

Employees (by Directorate): S Davies, P Jennings, H Peacocke and L Welton (Resources Directorate)

Apologies: Councillor R Sandy

16. Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2013-14

The meeting considered the Annual Report on the Committee's activities in 2013-14, prepared by the Executive Director, Resources, for presentation by the Chair to Full Council.

This report provided an overview of the Committee's activity during the municipal year 2013-14 and outlined the breadth of coverage by the Committee.

The Report stated that the Committee continued to discharge its key responsibility effectively, namely providing independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework, the internal control environment, and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance processes. Additionally, over the last year, it developed an approach to providing appropriate oversight of key procurement activity within the Council.

The Report pointed out that this was achieved at the same time that the Council successfully implemented a new finance system (Agresso), without any adverse impact on either the workings of the Committee and / or on any of the key areas of which it provides oversight.

The Chair acknowledged that this could not have been achieved without the significant contribution of both members and officers involved with the Committee.

The report also set out the Committee's priorities for 2014-15, including:

- To ensure that the Committee operates in line with the recently revised recommended practice from CIPFA.
- To keep abreast of national developments and the potential impact that these may have on the operation of the Audit and Procurement Committee.
- To ensure that any potential impacts that the transfer of the Benefit Fraud Team to the Department of Work and Pensions in March 2015 has on fraud arrangements in the Council are identified and managed.
- To gain assurance that all functionality available through the new Agresso financial system is both utilised and embedded in practice.
- To ensure that robust processes and procedures exist to minimise the risk of fraud and error in relation to the award of council tax discounts and exemptions and
- To ensure that any issues raised by the external auditors in their audit of the 2013-14 accounts are addressed on a timely basis.

Resolved that the Committee approves the Annual Report 2013-14 and approves its submission to Full Council.