

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Audit and Procurement Committee held at 3.30 pm on**  
**Monday, 15 September 2014**

Present:

Members: Councillor D Galliers (Chair)

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

Employees (by Directorate): S Mangan, Resources Directorate  
P Jennings, Resources Directorate  
P Baggott, Resources Directorate  
C Booth, Resources Directorate  
M Burn, Resources Directorate  
H Peacocke, Resources Directorate

Apologies: Councillor R Sandy

### **Public Business**

The Chair told the meeting that due to a clash with an important all-Member briefing that he proposed to deal with the items from the External Auditors, Item 5, the Audit Findings Report 2013-14 and item 6, approval of the Statement of Accounts 2013-14 and to defer the rest of the business of the meeting to future meetings of the Committee. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

It was noted that item 8, the Annual Compliance Report - Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), was due to go to the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities on October 2 and the Committee agreed that members should submit any comments by 30 September, to be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for his consideration when dealing with this matter.

#### **22. Apologies**

Councillor Richard Sandy

#### **23. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **24. Audit Findings Report 2013-14 (Grant Thornton)**

Simon Turner of Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors, presented their audit findings report for 2013/14.

The report highlighted the key matters arising from their audit of Coventry City Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014. It was also used to report the audit findings to management and those charged with governance in accordance with the requirements of International Standard on Auditing 260 (ISA).

Grant Thornton reported positive messages and gave the accounts unqualified approval. They praised how the Council had implemented its new financial system, Agresso, and the standard of the accounts presented to them.

Among the matters included in the Report were:

- 2 principal adjustments, the revaluation of Waste disposal Company, from £5M to £51M and an adjustment on rental income, arising out of a change in reporting practice,
- Significant risks, which had all been properly dealt with
- Other risks
- Group accounts
- Accounting policies
- Disclosure adjustments and revaluations,
- Private Finance Initiative; the Council had requested time to compare its assessment model with that of the External Auditors
- Resilience and governance were strong.
- Reserves remained low
- The 2013/14 savings target had not been met due to overspending on Children's Services
- The Auditors gave a qualified opinion on Value For Money because of the OFSTED Report on Children's Services
- The auditors' fees were down £2,000 from those quoted in their Audit Plan to the Council.

Appendix A of the report set out their action plan and management response arising out of the audit and the Committee requested an update on progress on these matters at its March 2015 meeting.

The Committee Chair congratulated the Council's financial officers on the findings in the report.

**RESOLVED that the Committee approve the Audit Findings Report 2013-14 as presented by the Council's external auditors.**

## 25. **Statement of Accounts 2013-14**

This report was presented alongside the External Auditor's Audit Findings Report which detailed the key changes to the draft Statement of Accounts considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee in July. The changes had been agreed between Grant Thornton and the Executive Director of Resources.

The meeting noted that the Council had delegated authority for approval of the Statement of Accounts, including the Annual Governance Statement to the Audit & Procurement Committee. The Committee considered the audited 2013/14 Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement, incorporating any agreed changes to the draft accounts which came before them in July.

The Committee also considered the letter of representation from the Executive Director, Resources, to the Council's external auditors, giving his assurance regarding the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement.

**RESOLVED that the Audit & Procurement Committee approve the final 2013/14 Statement of Accounts, the Letter of Representation to the Council's auditors and the Annual Governance Statement.**

(Meeting closed at 3.55 pm)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_