

**Minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee
Wednesday 23rd November, 2022 at 2.00pm
in Committee Room 3, the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Lees (Chair)

Councillor D Borley (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Ali, P Atkins, J Cowell, M Evans, E Lawrence, J Foster and A Taylor

Officers:

B Heran (Deputy Chief Executive), G Harrison (Head of Audit and Risk Management), A Taylor (Senior Principal Auditor), M Grainger (Corporate Fraud Manager) and S Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager)

15 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Martin.

16 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

Councillor J Foster was appointed as a Substitute Member for Councillor J Martin for this meeting of the Committee only.

17 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J Foster declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 7 (Internal Audit Report) due to her attendance at the event referred to in the report during 2019.

Councillor S Ali declared for transparency purposes that he was a Member referred to in the report to be considered under Agenda Item No. 7.

18 **Exclusion of the public and press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) and to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

19 **Internal Audit Report**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive on the findings of an internal audit report.

Following a detailed discussion and consideration of the report, together with responses to comments and questions raised by Members of the Committee, it was

Resolved

- (1) That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive together with the internal audit report, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the meeting, be received and noted.
- (2) That the recommendations set out in Section 6 of the internal audit report be endorsed.
- (3) That further work be undertaken on the issues identified concerning compliance with formal processes, policies and the Constitution and that the following additional recommendations be made:



- That the findings in relation to any individual or individuals be investigated under appropriate procedures to ascertain whether any further action is required and that this investigation include interviews with Members as appropriate.
 - That the Head of Procurement submit a report to the Committee by April, 2023 concerning exceptions to contract standing orders.
 - That the appropriate Director review the current capacity within internal audit to determine whether this is sufficient.
- (4) That a further report be submitted to the Committee in due course to give an update on any actions required and/or any further processes or steps considered to be appropriate.
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The meeting ended at 5.20pm

CHAIR

