

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 26 July 2022

PRESENT: Councillor L Kirton (Chair)
Councillor(s): R Beadle, L Green, H Kelly, J McElroy,
R Mullen and C Ord
Independent Member(s): S Bell and I Dormer

APOLOGIES: L Bowler (Independent Member)

ASC403 MINUTES

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

ASC404 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ASC405 ANNUAL REPORT TO CABINET AND COUNCIL 2021/22

The Committee received the annual report, which is required under the terms of reference to be submitted to Cabinet and Council.

A summary of the reports presented to the Committee over the last year was given. It was noted that at the meeting on 28 June 2022 it was concluded that the Council's system of internal control and governance framework is effective following approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.

RESOLVED - That the Committee agreed the draft report be submitted to Cabinet and Council.

ASC406 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT 2022/23 - QUARTER 1 UPDATE

Committee received a report on Corporate Risk Management during the first quarter period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.

It was noted that no changes have been made to the Strategic Risk Register in this quarter and the Business Continuity Plans continue to be reviewed.

It was questioned as to whether there have been any additions to the Risk Register in the last year. It was confirmed that the register is under review at present so will change but that there has been no change in the last 12 months.

Committee requested that a copy of the scoring grid be provided for information.

RESOLVED - That Committee noted the report and was satisfied with the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements.

ASC407 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining business in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

ASC408 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2022

Committee received a report on the progress made against the audit plan for the financial year 2022/23 in the first quarter.

It was reported that 22% of the audit plan has been completed so far, in terms of hours this is on course to achieve performance target.

Of the 22 assignments completed so far this year; 16 were satisfactory, five were operating well and there was one area of significant weakness. This area of weakness was due to the misuse of a purchase card, management have accepted this finding.

It was confirmed that to date 100% of audits have been completed on time, productive time was recorded at 65% of overall time against a target of 72%.

It was questioned whether Covid has had an impact on the audit process. It was confirmed that the service is now working a lot more efficiently through hybrid working and remote working works well for the service.

It was queried as to why one of the high priority recommendations is not due to be implemented until December 2025. It was confirmed that this is to do with Capital work on high rise buildings and that 2025 is the deadline for properties to be up to code across the Borough.

RESOLVED - The Committee noted the contents of the report.

ASC409 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 4.00pm.

Chair.....