

**A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 24 MARCH 2016
*Subject to Approval***

Councillors; Bateman (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn, Mrs Cully (P), Dickson (P), Forder (P), Gill (P) and Scard

25. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Scard.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 10 September 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

28. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations

29. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

30. ERNST AND YOUNG – CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS AND RETURNS ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Consideration was given to the report of the Council's external auditors Ernst and Young, which summarised the results of work undertaken on the Council's 2014-15 claims and returns.

The Committee were advised by Ernst and Young that they had certified the housing benefits subsidy claim and had issued a qualification letter in respect of the 2014-15 claim.

It was further advised that the certification work had found some minor errors, which had been corrected by the Council and had no significant impact on the Authority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

31. ERNST AND YOUNG – AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

Consideration was given to the Audit Plan which summarised Ernst and Young's initial assessment of the key risks and outlined their planned audit strategy in response to those risks.

Following a Members question regarding the reduction in fees compared to 2014/15 it was clarified by Ernst and Young that the 25% reduction was due to the closure of the Audit Commission. It was also reported that although changes had been made within the team the impact of the audit and quality remained at the same level.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

32. INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING STATEMENT FROM 1 JULY 2015 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2016

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance which tabled the performance of the Internal Audit Section in the period 1 July 2015 to 29 February 2016 against the agreed internal audit plan to the Members with responsibility for governance.

Following a Members question in relation to the review of gas servicing, the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management advised that checks and performance indicators were in place and being monitored quarterly. It was further advised that remedial action had been agreed with Management.

It was suggested by a Member that identified risks and management of those risks be reported at forthcoming meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Standards and Governance Committee reviewed and agreed the performance of Internal Audit from 1 July 2015 to 29 February 2016.

33. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2016/17

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance providing the Committee with the planned annual coverage of the Internal Audit resource for 2016/17.

The Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance reported that the Principal Auditor position had been filled on a 4 day weekly basis.

It was further reported that both trainees in the Audit Team were progressing well towards their professional qualifications.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit plan for 2016/17 Internal Audit plan as attached in Appendix One be approved.

34. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

The meeting concluded at 18:40.

CHAIRMAN