



NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting:	Audit Committee
Date and Time:	Tuesday 27 July 2021 7.00 pm
Place:	Council Chamber
Enquiries to:	Committee Services committeeservices@hart.gov.uk
Members:	Axam (Chairman), Blewett, Crookes, Davies, Farmer, Southern and Wildsmith

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

This Agenda and associated appendices are provided in electronic form only and are published on the Hart District Council Website.

Please download all papers through the Modern.Gov app before the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence from Members*.

***Note:** Members are asked to email Committee Services in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware they will be absent.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 4 - 6)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2021 are attached to be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests*.

***Note:** Members are asked to email Committee Services in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware they may have an interest to declare.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT Q1 2021/22 (Pages 7 - 15)

To update the Committee on Internal Audit work Carried out between 1st April 2021 and 30th June 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report and appendix summarising Internal Audit work completed between April 2021 and June 2021 is noted.

6 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Pages 16 - 24)

The Council must conduct its business in accordance with the law and proper standards. Public money is to be safeguarded and its decision making process is open and transparent.

The purpose of the Local Code of Corporate Governance is to inform the community how the council will conduct its business and how it will comply with the principles of good governance outlined in the CIPFA/SOLACE Corporate Governance Framework 2016. The Code has been updated to take into account the revised framework.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee approves the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance

7 DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (Pages 25 - 54)

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the content of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 contained in Appendix 1.

The Committee should note that this is a draft statement and may require amendments to take into account any changes required as part of the audit of the Statements of Accounts for 2020/21. The final version will be reported to the next Audit Committee for questions, debate and approval.

Officers are providing the report now to provide Member of the Committee sufficient time to review, scrutinize and clarify any queries in advance of the document coming to Committee for discussion and approval.

RECOMMENDTION

That Members of the Committee review the report and bring questions or queries to the Internal Audit Manager or Head of Corporate Services during August

8 ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE (Pages 55 - 67)

Local government finance in the UK has been governed by primary legislation, regulation and professional standards as supported by regulation. The general financial management of a local authority, however, was not supported by a professional code. CIPFA introduced a Financial Management code (FM Code) to provide guidance to local authorities. This report provides the results of an Officer review against the key standards in the code.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee notes:

The publication of the FM Code and the requirement for it to be applied from 1 April 2020.

That the first year, 2020/21, is a shadow year where local authorities can demonstrate that they are working towards full implementation which, for the first full year of compliance, will be 2021/22.

That an initial assessment has been carried out at APPENDIX A of the Council's assessed level of compliance compared to the Standards contained in the FM Code.

There is an item on the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 to review progress against actions raised in the initial review.

Date of Publication: Monday, 19 July 2021