

GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 6.30pm, Committee Room F10,
The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX.

MINUTES – PART A

Present: Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh (Chair);
Councillor Humayun Kabir (Vice Chair);
Councillors: Carole Bonner, Jan Buttinger, Jason Cummings, Simon Hall,
Yvette Hopley, John Wentworth and Sue Winborn.

Independent Non-Voting Co-opted Member: Mr. Nero Ughwujabo (for part
of the meeting)

Absent: Councillors Emily Benn, Dudley Mead and Mike Selva. Independent Non-
Voting Co-opted Member Mrs. Sabia Noor

Also in Attendance

Nathan Elvery	Chief Executive
Richard Simpson	Director of Finance and Assets & Section 151 Officer
Sarah Ireland	Director of Strategy Communities and Commissioning
Malcolm Davies	Head of Insurance Risk and Corporate Programme Office
Simon Maddocks	Head of Governance
Dominic Bradley	Grant Thornton
Dave Phillips	Mazars - Internal Audit Manager

A16/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28
January 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chair.

A17/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emily Benn,
Dudley Mead, Mike Selva and Independent Non-Voting Co-opted
Member Mrs. Sabia Noor

A18/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST (agenda item 3)

No disclosures of interest were made during the course of the Committee
meeting.

A19/15 URGENT BUSINESS (agenda item 4)

None

A20/15 EXEMPT ITEMS (agenda item 5)

The Committee **NOTED** that there was no Part B agenda item.

A21/15 ORAL UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT NON-VOTING MEMBERS (agenda item 6)

The Chair advised Members that following a rigorous process of external adverts and panel interviews two independent Non-Voting Members had been appointed to serve on the Committee from the beginning of the Municipal Year. He went on to say that subject to satisfactory attendance these positions would be renewed on an Annual basis.

Councillor Cummings and Councillor Hopley asked questions concerning the process and oral replies were given by Simon Maddocks, Head of Governance.

The Committee noted that Mrs Sabia Noor and Mr. Nero Ughwujabo had been appointed as Independent Non-Voting Members.

A22/15 COUNCIL-WIDE RESTRUCTURE OF FIRST TIER OFFICERS (agenda item 7)

Councillor Simon Hall introduced the report. The Chief Executive added that the restructure linked in with the Administrations manifesto pledges of Ambitious for Croydon and would deliver savings and set the foundation for future transformation of the Council. There would now be three departments, People, Place and Resources. In summation he said that this was Phase 1 of the restructure and would help the Council to meet the financial challenges ahead.

Members of the Committee asked questions and received oral replies.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report of the Chief Executive on the restructure of the Council and the savings made for the 2015/16 budget

A23/15 EXCEPTIONS TO THE TENDERS & CONTRACT REGULATIONS (agenda item 8)

Sarah Ireland, Director of Strategy, Communities and Commissioning introduced the report and advised Committee that two exceptions had been granted and each had been reported to Cabinet.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note as per Regulation 3 of the Tenders and Contracts Regulations the exceptions approved by the Director of Strategy, Communities and Commissioning since the last meeting of the Committee.

A23/15 ESTABLISHMENT OF A CROYDON COUNCIL LOCAL PENSION BOARD. (agenda item 9)

Richard Simpson, Director of Finance and Assets & Section 151 Officer introduced the report and outlined the requirements to set up the Board that were required to be in place by 1st April 2015.

Members of the Committee asked questions and received oral replies.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve:

1. The establishment of a Local Pension Board
2. That the Director of Finance and Assets (s151 Officer) be delegated to finalise the Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix A; and.
3. The adoption of the policies which govern the behaviour and function of the Board to be delegated to the Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer).

A24/15 REPORTS FROM GRANT THORNTON (agenda item 10)

Dominic Bradley, Audit Manager, introduced the Grant Thornton reports

The Committee noted the content of The Audit Plan for Croydon Council and the Audit Plan for the London Borough of Croydon Pension Fund.

Members of the Committee asked questions on each report and received oral replies. It was noted that on page 73 of the agenda the reference to Corporate Services Committee would be deleted.

The Committee noted the content of the update reports from Grant Thornton. The Chair thanked Grant Thornton for the reports.

A25/15 INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING REPORT: APRIL 2014 TO JANUARY 2015 (agenda item 11)

The Head of Governance introduced the monitoring report.

As discussed at previous meetings of the Committee it was agreed that that Councillors who are governors of schools scheduled to be audited would be advised accordingly. It is anticipated that the audit field work will be completed by the end of the year.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for April 2014 to January 2015.

A26/15 INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER, STRATEGY AND PLAN. (Agenda item 12)

The Head of Governance introduced the report and advised that Charter had been updated to reflect that the General Purposes and Audit Committee replaced references to the Audit advisory Committee.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the Internal Audit Charter (Appendix 1), Strategy (Appendix 2) and to note the plan of audit work for 2015/16 (Appendix 3).

A27/15 ANTI-FRAUD UPDATE REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2015 (agenda item 13)

The Head of Governance introduced the report detailing the performance of the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) and including details of the team's targets and actual performance together with an update on developments during the period 1 December 2014 to 31 January 2015.

Councillor Cummings thanked officers for the work being done in the area.

The Chair thanked the Head of Governance and his team for their hard work over the year.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the Anti-fraud activity of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 January 2015;
2. Approve the Council's Anti-Fraud Proactive Plan; and
3. Approve the Council's Anti-Fraud Strategy;

A28/15 PREPARATION FOR CLOSURE OF 2014/15 ACCOUNTS (agenda item 14)

The Director of Finance and Assets & Section 151 Officer introduced the report.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the progress in the preparation for the year- end 2014-15

The Chair thanked officers for their work and looked forward to a good closure of the accounts.

A29/15 GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 (agenda item 15)

The Committee discussed the content of the draft Annual Report and put forward suggestions for some amendments. Officers would draft these

and forward to the Chair and the S151 Officer for approval prior to the report being presented to Full Council.

A30/15 COUNCIL RISK REGISTER (agenda item 16)

The Head of Risk and Corporate Programme Office presented the report advising the Committee that no red risks had been escalated or de-escalated since its last meeting on 28th January 2015. He also advised the Committee that the register was being refreshed in line with the ongoing restructure of the Council.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the Corporate Risk Register as at March 2015.

The meeting ended at 8.23pm.