

## GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting Held on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at 6.30pm, Committee Room F10,  
Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX

### MINUTES PART A

**Present:** Councillor Pat Ryan (Chair)  
Councillor Hamida Ali (Vice Chair)  
Councillors: Jan Buttinger, Jason Cummings, Mike Fisher,  
Maddie Henson, Yvette Hopley, Humayun Kabir, Mike Selva  
and John Wentworth.

Independent non-voting Members: Mrs Sabia Noor and  
Mr Nero Ughwujabo

**Also Present:** Councillor Simon Hall, Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Dominic Bradley, Grant Thornton, external auditors  
Ian Geary, Accountancy Manager  
Richard Simpson, Assistant Chief Executive Corporate Resources and  
Section 151 Officer  
Paul Heynes, Head of Care Act Implementation Programme  
Dave Philips, Mazars, Internal Audit Manager  
Simon Maddocks, Head of Governance  
Dianne Ellender, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer

#### **A31/15 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emily Benn,  
Councillor Maddie Henson deputised.

The Chair, welcomed Councillor Simon Hall, Cabinet Member for  
Finance and Treasury to the meeting.

#### **A32/15 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday  
25 March 2015, be agreed and signed by the Chair.

#### **A33/15 Disclosure of Interest**

Councillor Jan Buttinger disclosed that she is a governor at the Hayes  
Primary School and Councillor Mike Fisher, disclosed that he is a  
governor at Greenvale Primary School.

**A34/15 Urgent Business**

**None**

**A35/15 Exempt Items**

The Committee **Noted** that there were no Part B agenda items.

**A36/15 Care Act – Presentation**

Paul Heynes, Head of the Care Act Implementation Programme was in attendance at the meeting for this item. The presentation highlighted potential risks associated with the implementation of the Care Act.

Areas of concern included the unavoidable increase of baseline assessments of all clients that require social care, those existing clients and self-funders. A potential associated risk highlighted was that the council would need to ensure that adequate numbers of trained staff are in place to conduct and deal with the increased volume of assessments. One of the initiatives officers are developing is a system whereby clients self- assess their areas of need which should be available from October 2015 and would relieve some of the pressures on staff.

Members sought reassurance that sufficient resources were in place to deliver the increased number of assessments, rising from 1,500 to in excess of 2,000. Officers are confident that there were sufficient funds to accommodate the increase in assessments.

Officers are ready to assist those concerned self-funders that may question why they will be quoted a varied tariff for their services. Officers are working hard to inform clients that individual tariffs will be different to those procured by the council.

Members raised concerns in relation to the potential numbers of clients that may fall through the net. Officers confirmed that service users if known to the service this will continue to receive support and new client will be referred from the hospital/community setting or the voluntary sector.

Officers reported that the preventative agenda, delivered by a series of outcome based commissioning initiatives will be a key component in the delivery of the Care Act and that efforts will be concentrated on well-being in a bid to reduce instance of treating illness/hospital admissions.

The Committee thanked the officer for his presentation.

**A37/15 Revenue & Capital Outturn Expenditure: Draft Final Accounts for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- 1.1 Approve the levels of reserves and provisions set out in section 7.4 of the previously distributed report, as amended by the Section 151 Officer;
- 1.2 Note the Council's outturn position, and the progress of the Council's current Financial Strategy objectives;
- 1.3 Note the departmental outturn variances as contained within Table 2 and Appendix 1 of the previously distributed report; and
- 1.4 Note that a report seeking final approval of the accounts following their review by external audit will be presented prior to the deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**A38/15 Annual Governance Statement 2014/15**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- 1.2 Approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2014/15 at appendix 1 of the previously distributed report, in relation to scope of responsibility, purpose of the framework, governance framework detail and review of its effectiveness;
- 1.3 Agree the statement on 'outcomes' in relation to 'Issues raised in 2013/14 Statement and progress to date' and
- 1.5 Agree the significant governance issues indicated in relation to 2014/15 and the actions being taken to mitigate those risks.

**A39/15 Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2014/15**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the Head of Internal Audit Report 2014/15 as seen at appendix 1 of the previously distributed report and the overall satisfaction level of assurance of the Council's systems of internal control.

**A40/15 Internal Review 2014/15**

The Committee reviewed and commented on the Assistant Chief Executive's (Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer) assessment of the internal audit function

**A41/15 Anti-Fraud Report: 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

**RESOLVED** to note the anti-fraud activity of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

**A42/15 Grant Thornton Reports:**

**General Purposes and Audit Committee update for Croydon Council.**

Grant Thornton officers reported that an update would be reported to committee at its September 2015 meeting, the update will include the Council's accounts as produced by Assistant Chief Executive's (Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer)

**Planned audit fee for 2015/16**

The Committee were pleased to note that the planned audit fee for 2015/16 had been reduced and **RESOLVED** to agree the report.

**A43/15 Annual Appointments – Amendments**

**RESOLVED** to on behalf of the Council the following amendments to Appointments made at the Annual Council meeting on 21 May 2015:

- **Corporate Parenting Panel** – Councillor Bernadette Khan to replace Councillor Maddie Henson;
- **Church Tenements Charity** – Councillor Maddie Henson to replace Councillor Alisa Flemming;
- **Health and Wellbeing Board** – Councillor Maddie Henson to replace Councillor Pat Clouder as Reserve Member and
- **Mobility Forum** – Councillor Pat Clouder to replace Councillor Bernadette Khan.
- **Elenor Shorter Fund** – Councillor David Wood to replace Councillor Bernadette Khan.

The Chair informed that Committee that there was no business to conduct in Part B in accordance with the council's open and transparency agenda.

The Chair gave the Committee early notice that the date of the September meeting would be changed from Wednesday 16 September to Wednesday 23 September 2015.

**The meeting ended at 7.55pm**