

GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting Held on Wednesday 23 September 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: Emily Benn, Jan Buttinger, Jason Cummings, Mike Fisher,
Yvette Hopley, Bernadette Khan, Wayne Trakas-Lawlor and
Mike Selva.

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

Paul Grady, Rufaro Dewu and Tom Ball, Grant Thornton, external
auditors
Nigel Cook, Pensions and Treasury Manager
Ian Geary, Accounting Manager
Richard Simpson, Assistant Chief Executive Corporate Resources and
Section 151 Officer
Dave Philips, Mazars, Internal Audit Manager
Simon Maddocks, Head of Governance
Malcolm Davies, Head of Risk and Corporate Programme Officer
Dianne Ellender, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer

A44/15 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Humayun Kabir and Councillor John Wentworth. Councillor Bernadette Khan deputised for Councillor Humayun Kabir and Councillor Wayne Trakas Lawlor deputised for Councillor John Wentworth.

Independent non-voting Member Mr Nero Ughwujabo also sent his apologies.

At 7.40pm Councillor Simon Hall left the meeting and at 7.46pm Councillor Bernadette Khan left the meeting.

A45/15 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2015, be agreed and signed by the Chair.

A46/15 Disclosure of Interest

At 7.47pm Councillor Jason Cummings disclosed that he is a governor at the ?? Primary School.

A47/15 Urgent Business

I am regretfully advising the Committee that Mrs Sabia Noor has resigned her position as Co-opted member of this committee. Dose the Committee agree that I write and thank Mrs Noor for her excellent service?

Can the officers prepare a report for the next meeting on the recruitment for the vacancy?

A48/15 Exempt Items

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

A49/15 Audit Findings (agenda item 6)

The Chair commented that the reports were excellent and the Committee thanked Richard Simpson and his team on obtaining “unqualified opinions”.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- 1.1 Note the ISA 260 Reports for the Council and the Pension Fund issued by the Council’s external auditors, Grant Thornton as seen in appendices 1 and 2 of the previously circulated reports;
- 1.2 Approve the letters of representation as seen in appendices 3 and 4 of the previously circulated reports on behalf of the Council and the Pension Fund;
- 1.3 Approve the final accounts as seen in appendix 5 of the previously circulated report, based on the adjustments recommended in the Audit Findings report for the Council (set out in appendix 1)
- 1.4 Delegate powers to the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Resources and Section 151) to sign off the Council’s 2014/15 accounts for any changes identified between this meeting date and the 30th September 2015, in consultation with the Chair and Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

A50/15 Anti-Fraud Report April – July 2015 (agenda item 7)

The Chair commented that Richard Simpson and his team are achieving good results and in particular the recovery of 5 properties which will help some of our community be housed.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the anti-fraud activity of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team for the period 1 April 2015 – 31 July 2015.

A51/15 Internal Audit Update Report April to July 2015 (agenda item 8)

The Chair stated that he was pleased to see that the work plan had been achieved during the first quarter.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the Internal Audit Report for April 2015 to July 2015 as contained within appendix 1 of the previously distributed report.

A52/15 Corporate Risk Register (agenda item 9)

Members will note that we continue to publish the risk register to continue to promote openness and transparency.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the Corporate Risk Register as at September 2015.

A53/15 Treasury Annual Review 2014/15 (agenda item 10)

The Chair commented that this is an important report which provides data and reassurance in respect of the Council's careful stewardship of public funds. I am particularly pleased, and would like to congratulate Richard Simpson on establishing such an excellent relationship with the EIB that they have offered an additional loan.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the contents of this report and:

- (a) Approved the revision of the Council's minimum rating criteria for investment purposes for the reasons and as set out in paragraph 3.3.1 and as detailed in appendix A of the previously circulated report and to
- (b) Endorse the Treasury Annual Review 2014/15 and the continued implementation of the Council's Treasury Strategy 2015/16 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer).

A54/15 Council Meeting Dates 2016/17 (agenda item 11)

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve on behalf of the Council the schedule of Full Council meeting dates for 2016/2017.

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

The meeting ended at 0.00pm