

GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting Held on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 6.30pm, Committee Room F9,
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,
Yvette Hopley, Humayun Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Joy Prince,
Mike Selva and Susan Winborn.

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

Paul Grady, Rufaro Dewu and Chris Long, Grant Thornton, external auditors

Lisa Taylor , Head of Finance and Deputy 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

A55/15 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emily Benn, Councillor John Wentworth and Councillor Mike Fisher. Councillor Bernadette Khan deputised for Councillor Emily Benn and Councillor Joy Prince deputised for Councillor John Wentworth and Councillor Susan Winborn deputised for Councillor Mike Fisher.

A56/15 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2015, be agreed and signed by the Chair.

A57/15 Disclosure of Interest

None

A58/15 Urgent Business

None

A59/15 Exempt Items

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

A60/15 Presentation by People Department

The Executive Director, People, gave a detailed presentation on the budget challenges facing the People Department. These covered four main areas

- Looked after Children
- SEN- Transport
- Adult Placements
- Temporary Accommodation.

He went on to say that there was increased demand for Council services as the boroughs population increased. These included elderly residents needing more assistance, those with physical disabilities or more complex needs. There was also increased deprivation in the borough.

The Chair thanked the Executive Director for his comprehensive presentation and following a question and answer session the presentation was noted.

A61/15 Grant Thornton reports

Grant Thornton introduced their reports

The Committee **noted** the contents of Annual Audit Letter for Croydon Council and the Update for Croydon Council report that provided an update on progress made by Grant Thornton of their responsibility as the council external auditors.

Members of the Committee asked questions on each report and received oral replies.

The Chair thanked Grant Thornton for their report.

A62/15. Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 – Mid-Year Review.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Resources and Section 151 officer) and to:

- (a) Approve the revision of the Council's Annual Minimum Revenue Policy Statement 2015/16 as set out in 3.7 and as detailed in Appendix F of the report.

- (b) Endorse the continued implementation of the Council's Treasury Strategy Statement, Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer).

A63/15. Anti-Fraud Report April 2015 – September 2015

The Committee **RESOLVED TO** note the Anti-fraud activity of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team for the period 1 April 2015 – 30 September 2015;

A64/15. Internal Audit Update Report April 2015 to September 2015

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the Internal Audit Report for April 2015 to September 2015 (Appendix 1 of the report).

A65/15. Independent Member Recruitment.

The Committee considered a report that summarised the process in relation to the appointment of an independent non-voting co-opted Member on the General Purposes and Audit Committee and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, be delegated authority to commence the appointment process of a non-voting independent member of the General Purposes and Audit Committee for the upcoming municipal year in accordance with the timetable set out in the report and the criteria set out in appendix 1 of the report.

A66/15. Corporate Risk Register

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Insurance Risk and Corporate Programme officer and **NOTED** the contents of the corporate risk register as at December 2015.

Councillor Simon Hall suggested that committee received a report at the next meeting from Sarah Ireland to update the reorganisation and transformation of contract management,

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.

In closing the meeting the Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The meeting ended at 8.26pm