

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT, RISK MANAGEMENT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

1 DECEMBER 2014

Chair: * Councillor Antonio Weiss

Councillors: * Ghazanfar Ali * Nitin Parekh
* Barry Macleod-Cullinane * Primesh Patel
* Amir Moshenson * Bharat Thakker

* Denotes Member present

27. Attendance by Reserve Members

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance.

28. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

Agenda Item 8 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy: Mid-Year Review

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a member of the London Councils' Pension Scheme. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

29. Minutes

The Chair advised that a response had been provided on the issue of naming officers in the minutes of the Committee and suggested that officers be named by their job titles only. It was agreed that this suggestion be referred back to the Director of Legal and Governance Services for his consideration.

A Member also commented that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 had not made reference to his comment that in his opinion, the Council's auditors had said that there had been no impact caused as a result of the departure of the Chief Executive. It was agreed that this be referenced as part of this meeting's minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

30. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions, petitions or deputations were received at this meeting.

31. References from Council and other Committees/Panels

There were none.

RESOLVED ITEMS

32. Information Report - Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy: Mid-Year Review 2014-15

The Committee received a report, presented by the Director of Finance and Assurance, which set out the mid-year review of treasury management activities for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

33. Information Report - Annual Audit Letter

The Committee received a report, presented by the Director of Finance and Assurance, which provided an opportunity to consider the Annual Audit Letter.

A Member of the Committee commented that it would be useful for the Committee to write to the Council's auditors to seek clarification on their views in relation to the effect of the deletion of the Chief Executive post. Upon a vote this proposal was not agreed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

34. Information Report - Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Mid Year Report 2014-15

The Committee received a report, presented by the Corporate Anti-Fraud Service Manager, which detailed the mid-year Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) performance against the Service Fraud Plan for 2014/15. It also

provided information about the future work of the CAFT since benefit fraud work has transferred to the Department for Work & Pensions.

During the presentation of the report, the Committee was asked to consider from a fraud risk perspective where in their opinion the priorities existed in both the short term and medium to longer term. The Chair commented that it would also be a good idea to circulate a note to all Members to seek their views on relevant priorities.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

35. Information Report - Internal Audit Mid-Year Report 2014/15

The Committee received a report, presented by the Head of Internal Audit, which set out progress against the 2014/15 Internal Audit plan and key issues arising from work undertaken.

Members commented that in the future they would like the report to include the most up to date information to ensure that they were considering the most recent data.

Upon a request by a Member, officers undertook to provide an update at the next meeting on issues relating to Creditors' Ledgers.

During the discussion on this item, the Committee agreed to exclude the press and the public when discussing an issue relating to whistleblowing at two schools. This was because the information involved the likely disclosure of Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.38 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ANTONIO WEISS
Chair