

Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014

Present

Councillor Lanchbury – In the Chair
Councillors Barrett, Hackett, Ollerhead Siddiqi and Watson
Mr S Downs, Independent Co-opted Member

Also Present

John Farrar – Grant Thornton

Councillors Nasrin Ali, Gillard, Lyons and N Murphy, members of the Finance Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Akbar, Assistant Executive Member
Councillor Flanagan, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Apologies

Councillor Ahmed Ali

AC/14/21 Chair

The Scrutiny Support, Team Leader, told members that there was currently no Chair of the Committee, and asked for nominations. A member nominated Councillor Lanchbury, which was seconded by another member and agreed by the Committee.

Decision

To appoint Councillor Lanchbury as Chair for the meeting.

AC/14/22 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014.

AC/14/23 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance and Performance) and the City Treasurer which presented the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which had been produced following completion of the annual review of the Council's governance arrangements and systems for internal review. The draft AGS was submitted to this meeting of the Audit Committee for comments prior to the final version being submitted to the Committee at its July meeting as part of the Annual Accounts. The draft AGS would also be submitted to the June meeting of the Standards Committee. As the first meetings of the 2014/15 municipal year were delayed because of the late election date, the draft AGS would not be submitted to the Finance Scrutiny Committee as was normally the case. However, members of the Finance Scrutiny Committee were invited to this meeting and welcomed to comment on the draft AGS. An update on actions to deliver the

governance improvements would be submitted to the December 2014 meeting of the Finance Scrutiny Committee. The Directorate Lead, Performance, Corporate Core introduced the report.

The Committee considered safeguarding casework compliance operated for the Council by Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, identified as a key issue in the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management Annual Opinion 2013/14. The Strategic Director (Families, Health and Wellbeing) clarified that it would not be appropriate to include the conclusions of the interim audit in April 2014 in the AGS as they were not finalised until July 2014. The Committee recommended that this paragraph be reworded to omit mention of the interim audit.

The Committee noted that one section of the report stated that the new data centre at the Sharp Project was established, while another section stated it would be complete in August 2014. The Strategy Governance and Compliance Manager explained the centre was operational, but more servers would be brought in by August. The Committee asked for this to be clarified in the AGS.

The Committee agreed to consider Manchester City Council's 2012/13 Local Accounts at a future meeting, and recommend that Health Scrutiny Committee also look at this. The Care Quality Commission advises councils to produce these accounts, which demonstrate how the Council has safeguarded and maintained personal dignity, put people first and achieved value for money, judged against the health and social care outcomes for its area. The Committee asked for the AGS to be amended to reflect that Audit Committee would consider them, and that they would be available for consideration by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee agreed to a suggestion by the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources that a briefing for new members of Audit Committee be arranged to introduce them to audit and the work of the Committee, and agreed to invite members of Finance Scrutiny Committee. John Farrar, of Grant Thornton, offered to assist in this, which the Committee supported.

Decision

1. To consider Manchester City Council's 2012/13 Local Accounts, which the Care Quality Commission recommends that it produce, at a future meeting of the Audit Committee, and recommend that the Health Scrutiny Committee consider Manchester City Council's 2012/13 Local Accounts.
2. To request that a briefing for new members of Audit Committee is arranged to introduce them to audit and the work of the Committee, and to invite members of the Finance Scrutiny Committee.
3. To recommend that the draft Annual Governance Statement is amended as follows:
 - To omit reference to the interim audit in April 2014 of the safeguarding casework compliance operated for the Council by Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust;
 - To clarify the status of the new data centre and ensure it is consistent

throughout;

- To include that the Audit Committee would be looking at Manchester City Council's 2012/13 Local Accounts, and that they would be available for consideration by the Health Scrutiny Committee.