

AUDIT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 October 2021 (6:15 pm – 7:04 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Holes (Chair); Councillors Bourne, Buckley, Campbell, Grajewski, Irish, Manning, Pragnell, Park and Tennent

Also in attendance: Councillors

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors

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RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

92. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

93. MINUTES

Councillor Grajewski noticed a spelling mistake on page 3 of the minutes, gaged should have been gauged.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

95. VERBAL UPDATES FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP (SRMG) / PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE GROUP (PEG)

**(a) Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG)**

The Executive Head of Governance reported that the Group had met on 16 September 2021 and the following updates were provided:

- The Corporate Risk Register was reviewed, and risks discussed, including key vacant posts and possible mitigation needed whilst those posts were vacant.

- The Corporate Manager was in the process of carrying out a corporate review of resources, entitled Attract, Recruit, Retain – which would hopefully help identify areas for improvement.
- The Operational Risk Register would be regularly reviewed and there is a programme to call in officers to update SRMG on processes and risk mitigation measures.

Councillor Grajewski added that she had suggested targeted social media advertising for Direct Services recruitment, and that there would be advertising on the side of vehicles. She hoped that a further updated could be provided after the next SRMG meeting.

Councillor Grajewski commented that public money spends should always be sited and in the public domain and as such she felt the Corporate Risk Register should be a public document.

Councillor Campbell raised concerns that the vacancies in key posts could have implications on performance and the Committee discussed the content for the forthcoming Staffing Update report for next month's meeting. Councillors would like to understand the implications of key vacancies. Councillors were encouraged to articulate their concerns to officers so that the report can include specific commentary.

**(b) Procurement Executive Group (PEG)**

No Procurement Executive Group meeting had been held since the last meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 2 November 2021.

[NOTE: Councillor Manning joined the meeting at 18.25.]

96. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Executive Head of Governance updated the Committee that the Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 20/21 did not go to Cabinet on the 18 October 2021 as was dated in the report. It would instead go to Cabinet on 9 December 2021.

Councillor Grajewski requested confirmation on why the risk was deemed moderate in the table in Appendix B.

Councillor Campbell raised concerns that she did not think that the Council could claim to be ambitious with climate change, and that using the word ambitious in relation to finance was a concern but that the Council should be ambitious when talking about reinvigoration and regeneration of the town.

The Committee suggested that the report needed more work and that the wording needed some changes.

It was agreed that the Executive Head of Governance would do some more work on the report and recirculate ahead of Cabinet on 9 December 2021.

The Committee requested an update and feedback from the climate change team.

The Executive Head of Governance advised that a climate change update was already on the agenda for Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel on 6 December 2021. The Chair encouraged members of the Committee to attend this meeting to receive the update.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Audit and Resources Committee noted the Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2020/21.**

[NOTE: Councillor Buckley joined the meeting at 18.32 and did not take part in the debate or vote on the item.]

97. ACTION LIST

The Committee considered the Action List, which set out the recent decisions and subsequent actions arising from the Committee.

It was confirmed that the Action List would be updated at the next meeting of the Audit and Resources Committee on 23 November 2021.

**It was AGREED -**

**That the Action List be noted.**

98. CABINET FORWARD PLAN

An update was provided that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Policy was now going to Cabinet on 9 December 2021, instead of 18 October 2021 as was in the current Forward Plan attached to the Agenda.

The Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

**It was AGREED -**

**That the current Forward Plan be noted.**

99. A&R WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its current Work Programme and requested that there were some adjustments to the November and January meetings.

It also requested that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Policy was brought to the Audit And Resources Committee meeting on 23 November 2021, before it was taken to Cabinet on 9 December 2021.

**It was AGREED -**

**That the Work Programme be noted.**

[NOTE: Councillor Pragnell joined the meeting at 18.58 and did not take part in the debate or vote on the item.]

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