

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Joe Roberts (Chairman), M. Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), J. Bradshaw, Cole, Fry, A. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott and J. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, I. Leivesley, M. Murphy and C. Lawley

Also in attendance: G. Jones, Grant Thornton

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

BEB27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

BEB28 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Community and Resources, which provided an update from Grant Thornton (External Auditors) regarding the following:-

- the progress made in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external Auditors; and
- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to the work of the Board.

Ms Georgia Jones from Grant Thornton presented the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

BEB29 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

The Board received the report of the Operational Director – Finance, on the planned programme of internal audit work for 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17 be approved.

BEB30 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) Whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor John Stockton declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following item as he was a Governor of Castle View Primary School.

BEB31 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, which provided Members with a summary of internal audit work completed since the last meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the update on progress against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan be received;
- 2) the completed internal audit reports be noted; and
- 3) the progress made in regard to the implementation of previous internal audit recommendations be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.