

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Audit Committee

16 March 2020 at 2.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Chris Jackson, Olly Mead and Clive Stevens

Officers in Attendance:-

Simba Muzarurwi (Chief Internal Auditor), Denise Murray (Director - Finance & Section 151 Officer), Nancy Rollason (Service Manager Legal) and Alison Mullis

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

These were done.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Brain, Bowden-Jones, Clough (Councillor Negus as substitute), Radford (Councillor Gollop as substitute) and from Independent Members Simon Cookson and Adebola Adebayo.

The Chair, Councillor Stevens, declared that, as a result of the issues around the Corona Virus, the meeting would only consider the items on the agenda that required a decision.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved as a correct record and it was:-

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.



5. Action sheet

This was noted.

6. Public Forum

This item was heard in open session before Item 16 – Verbal Update on Bristol Energy part heard in exempt session.

7. Work Programme

The Work Programme was noted.

8. Review of a Specific Corporate Risk - Flood Risk Management

It was agreed that this item be deferred to another meeting. In the meantime members were invited to submit questions to the Clerk who would arrange responses and circulate to the membership.

9. Review of External Inspections of Council Services 2019/20

It was agreed that this item be deferred to another meeting. In the meantime members were invited to submit questions to the Clerk who would arrange responses and circulate to the membership.

10 External Audit Update Report

Resolved – that the External Audit Update Report be noted.

11 Draft Annual Plan 2020/21

Resolved – that the Draft Annual Plan for 2020/21 be noted and the final version be considered at the meeting in May.

12 Internal Audit Activity Report for the period of 1st April 2019 to 29th February 2020

It was agreed that this item be deferred to another meeting. In the meantime members were invited to submit to questions to the Clerk who would arrange responses and circulate to the membership.



13 Member Code of Conduct for Development Control Committees

The following points arose from discussion:-

1. It was confirmed that this Code and the Licensing and PSP Codes of Conduct would relate to all members and not just those members of each Committee;
2. Councillor Mead suggested that the ruling party should not chair DC Committees because of the perceived conflict.

On being to the vote it was:-

Resolved - (4 for, 1 abstention) - That the revised Code of Conduct for Development Control Committees be endorsed and recommended by the Audit Committee to Full Council for adoption at its meeting in May.

14 Member Code of Conduct for Licensing Committee and Public Safety and Protection Committee

Resolved – (4 for, 1 abstention) - That the revised Code of Conduct for Licensing Committee and the new Code of Conduct for PSP Committee be endorsed and recommended by the Audit Committee to Full Council for adoption at its meeting in May.

15 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved - That under s.100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 3 (respectively) of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Act.

16 Bristol Energy Company and Statement of Accounts - verbal update

The Committee received an update report from Grant Thornton, External Auditors, and discussion followed.

Meeting ended at 3.40 pm



CHAIR _____

