

Bristol City Council Minutes of the Audit Committee



16 March 2020 at 2pm

Members Present:-

Councillors – Stevens (Vice-Chair), Gollop (Substitute) Negus (Substitute), Jackson, Mead,

Officers in Attendance:-

Denise Murray – Director Finance and Section 151 Officer, Simba Muzarurwi – Chief Internal Auditor, Alison Mullis - Deputy Chief Internal Auditor, Michael Pilcher – Chief Accountant, Nancy Rollason – Head of Legal Services, Allison Taylor – Democratic Services

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and safety information

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.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the last 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.

4. Action Sheet.

This was noted.

5. Public Forum

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



6. Work Programme

The Work Programme was noted.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. External Audit Update Report.

Resolved – that the External Audit Update Report be noted.

10. 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.

11. Internal Audit Activity Report for the period of 1 April 2019 to 29 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.

12. Members 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.



13. Members Code of Conduct for Licensing Committee and Public Safety and Protection (PSP) Committees.

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. Public Forum – Open Session.

This was noted.

15. Exclusion of the 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. Public Forum – Closed Session.

17. 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 3.40pm

