

At a Virtual Meeting of the Audit,
Governance and Standards
Committee of Richmondshire
District Council on Tuesday, 26
January 2021 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Angus Thompson (Chairman)
Councillors Lawrence Grose, John Amsden, Campbell Dawson, William
Heslop and Leslie Rowe.

Officers: Sian Moore (Corporate Director (s151 Officer)), Callum McKeon
(Corporate Director (Strategy and Regulatory)), Edward Maxwell
(Democratic Services Officer) and Leo Stolarski (Democratic Services
Assistant).

In Attendance: Councillor Ian Threlfall, Sarah Wallis, Ian Morton, Connor Munro
(Veritau North Yorkshire – Internal Audit) and Hassan Rohimun (Ernst
and Young – External Audit).

Apologies: Councillors Paul Cullen and Paul Spencer.

AG32/20 Minutes

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 be
approved and signed as an accurate record.

AG33/20 Public Speaking and Question Time

There were no public questions or statements submitted for
consideration at the meeting.

AG34/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AG35/20 Work Programme Update

Senior Management Team submitted an up to date Audit, Governance
and Standards Committee Work Programme.

Resolved: That the updated Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Work
Programme be noted.

AG36/20 Treasury Management Strategy

The Corporate Director (S151 Officer) presented the Treasury
Management Strategy 2021/22 for recommendation to Corporate Board
for approval.

Resolved: That the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy be recommended to
Corporate Board for approval.

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee – Tuesday, 26 January 2021

AG37/20 Information Governance Update

The Corporate Director (S151 Officer) presented a written report on actions taking place in relation to Information Governance. A copy of the action which had been updated at the last Corporate Group was appended to the report. It was noted that there had been a significant increase in data sharing and data impact assessments required to support Test and Trace to identify vulnerable residents and the vaccination programmes.

Resolved: That the progress made to date on Information Governance be noted.

AG38/20 ♦ Review of Addendum to Constitution

The Corporate Director (Strategy and Regulatory) presented a written report proposing that the protocol governing virtual meetings be amended to request that members refrain from smoking, vaping or consuming alcohol during public meetings.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that the virtual meetings protocol be amended to advise members not to smoke, vape or drink alcohol during public meetings.

AG39/20 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report 2020/21

The Corporate Director (s151 Officer) presented a written report on progress made to date in delivering the 2020/21 internal audit and counter fraud work programme. Details of progress against the planned work was set out in Appendix 1 to the report including details of audits completed as part of the 2019/20 plan not previously reported.

Resolved: That the progress on the delivery of the audit and counter fraud plans be noted.

AG40/20 Verbal Update from External Audit

A representative from Ernst and Young presented a verbal update on progress of the audit on the housing benefits certification. It was noted that the findings would be submitted to the next meeting and that audit planning for the current financial year should commence in March.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

AG41/20 Veritau Contract Update

The Corporate Director (S151 Officer) presented a written report on the proposed extension of the contract with Veritau to provide Internal Audit, Counter Fraud and Information Governance support. An extension of the contract for 2 years until 2024 was proposed to allow the Council to consider its requirements for assurance services in the longer term once

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee – Tuesday, 26 January 2021

a decision on Local Government Reorganisation has been made.

Resolved: That the proposed contract extension with Veritau North Yorkshire be noted.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7.10 pm.

◆ **Decision to be ratified by Full Council on 23 February 2021**