

Minutes

Audit Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	16 January 2013
Present:	Councillors Mrs C Mackman (Chair), J Cattanach, J Crawford, M Dyson, I Nutt, Mrs M McCartney, and I Reynolds
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor Mrs E Casling
Officers Present:	Roman Pronyszyn, Veritau; Gavin Barker, Mazars; Karen Iveson, Executive Director; Janette Barlow, Director Business Services and Richard Besley, Democratic Services Officer

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

To receive and approve the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 26 September 2012 and they are signed by the Chair.

24. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Councillor Mrs Mackman chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor Casling and welcomed all to the first meeting of the year and introduced Gavin Barker of Mazars the external Auditor.

25. A/12/11- EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Gavin Barker, Audit Senior Manager at Mazars introduced himself and the role of the company. Following a DCLG consultation document on

the 'Future of local public audit' and subsequent legislation, in 2012 a number of auditors from the Audit Commission transferred to new private-sector employers and the Commission's Audit Practice closed. Mazars were one of the firms appointed by the Audit Commission to carry out the audit of local councils in England.

The Auditor looked forward to working with the Audit Committee and Officers. The report highlighted the work achieved so far and confirmed that both parties had agreed the fees for the audit work to be carried out which offers a significant saving on past work.

Mr Barker would present a more detailed plan to the April meeting that will set out the risks identified for the audit.

This report identified emerging issues and developments, recognising the tough times Councils are experiencing in the current economic climate.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report.

26. A/12/12 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The report was presented by the Executive Director (S151) who highlighted the progress report appended. The Executive Director (S151) was pleased to confirm that the efforts made to resolve the issues reconciling housing rents and housing benefits had been successful and work was now up to date.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report

27. A/12/13 – INTERNAL AUDIT QUARTER 2+ REPORT 2011/12

Roman Pronyszyn, Senior Audit Manager for Veritau presented the report which identified the work of Veritau's Auditors within the second quarter of 2012-13 and confirmed that the overall opinion, to date, was of substantial assurance.

The Senior Audit Manager reported that there were seven Audits currently in progress.

The recent Audit on ICT that had issued a Limited Assurance has identified key weaknesses and would be followed up in July.

The Committee considered the agreed actions on Council House Repairs and asked whether the 5% sample of completed works was

sufficient. They felt it was important that resident's satisfaction was considered and hoped some customer sign-off was in place.

Officers agreed to check the procedures in place and report back to the Committee

RESOLVED:

To receive and approve the Internal Audit report

28. A/12/14 – AUDIT ANNUAL LETTER 2011/12

The Annual Audit letter from the Audit Commission offered an unqualified opinion of Selby Council's 2011/12 financial statements and had concluded that the Council had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effective use of resources.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report

29. A/12/15 – AUDIT OF GRANT CLAIMS AND RETURNS 2012/13

The Audit Commission had submitted the Annual Report on the Certification of Claims and Returns.

Gavin Barker, Mazars confirmed that there had been four claims to consider and all had been certified.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report

It was agreed to move to private session.

30. PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following item as there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information.

31. A/12/16 – REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The report was presented by the Executive Director (S151) who explained that the risk management strategy sets out the Council's approach to managing risk, which is as approved in the current strategy..

RESOLVED:

To receive and endorse the report

32. A/11/17 – REVIEW OF CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Presented by the Executive Director (S151), the Committee asked for progress on the review of Contaminated Land Strategy.

The Director agreed to check and report back to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

To receive and note the report

33. A/11/18 – REVIEW OF ACCESS SELBY RISK REGISTER

Presented by Janette Barlow, Access Selby Director of Business Services, the Committee were informed of the status of the 14 risks associated with Access Selby.

RESOLVED:

To receive and endorse the report

34. REVIEW OF DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

The Democratic Services Officer presented an early draft of the Work Programme for 2013/14 that would be adopted by the Committee at its next meeting.

The Executive Director (S151) asked if there were items of interest covered in Mazars' earlier report and the committee requested that the new funding regime in respect of localised Business Rates, be looked at in more detail given the risks associated with the system.

RESOLVED:

To add Localised Business Rates to the work programme for the coming year.

To receive and note the report.

The meeting closed at 5:47pm