

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 March 2021

PROGRESS ON ISSUES RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE

Joint Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of

- (i) progress on issues which the Committee has raised at previous meetings
- (ii) other matters that have arisen since the last meeting and that relate to the work of the Committee

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 This report is submitted to each meeting listing the Committee's previous Resolutions and / or when it requested further information be submitted to future meetings. The table below represents the list of issues which were identified at previous Audit Committee meetings and which have not yet been resolved. The table also indicates where the issues are regarded as completed and will therefore not be carried forward to this agenda item at the next Audit Committee meeting.

| Date | Minute number and subject | Audit Committee Resolution | Comment | Complete? |
|-------------|--|---|----------------|------------------|
| 07.03.19 | 107 – Progress on Issues Raised by the Committee | That the Committee's Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Mr Nick Grubb and Mr David Portlock be appointed to comprise a group, facilitated by Max Thomas to:- Discuss how this Committee is functioning; seek feedback from others such as the CD –SR and External Audit; review the findings; submit any proposed changes to a future meeting of the Committee for decision, and Full Council if appropriate; and complete the CIPFA questionnaire with input from the CD – SR | In progress | Yes |

| Date | Minute number and subject | Audit Committee Resolution | Comment | Complete? |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| 20.12.19 | 159 – Audit Committee Work Programme | That, in respect of training sessions held immediately prior to the Committee's meetings:- i. Governance of the Highways Teckal be scheduled for 26 October 2020 ii. Pensions Governance be scheduled for 27 March 2020 iii. A session about Beyond 2020 including Property Rationalisation be organised for the External Members only | Governance of external companies is also to be added. As agreed at the last meeting training sessions will recommence in 2021. | X |
| 14.12.20 | 185 – CIPFA Financial Management Code | That a further report on progress be brought back to Audit Committee ahead of the deadline for full compliance | To be considered alongside SoFA updates as appropriate | X |

3.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 On 1 February CIPFA released a consultation setting out proposed changes to the current versions of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (TM Code) and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code) (both previously updated in 2018).
- 3.2 The key changes to the Treasury Management Code of Practice proposed by the consultation impact on the Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) included in the code. The consultation proposes changes to TMP 10, Training and Qualifications and TMP 12, Corporate Governance as well as introducing a new TMP (13) on Environmental, Social and Governance Management.
- 3.3 The main focus of the consultation on the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities are changes to address the risks associated with commercial property acquisitions following comment from the Public Accounts Committee, National Audit Office Reports and changes to the PWLB borrowing rules.
- 3.4 A response to both consultations will be submitted on behalf of the County Council prior to the closing date (12 April) and a verbal update on the consultation will be provided at the June Audit Committee. In addition, any changes resulting from either consultation will be reflected in the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23, which will be submitted to the County Council meeting in February 2022.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Committee considers whether any further follow-up action is required on any of the matters referred to in this report.

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

22 March 2021

Background Documents: Report to, and Minutes of, Audit Committee meetings held on 14 December 2020