

## TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Monday, 4th September, 2017

**Present:** Cllr V M C Branson (Chairman), Cllr M C Base (Vice-Chairman), Cllr T Bishop, Cllr B T M Elks, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp and Cllr B W Walker

Grant Thornton, External Auditors: Ms S Ironmonger (Engagement Lead) and Mr R Lawson (Audit Manager)

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, O C Baldock, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, D Lettington, M R Rhodes, H S Rogers and T C Walker were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Edmondston-Low, S R J Jessel and S C Perry

### PART 1 - PUBLIC

#### **AU 17/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

#### **AU 17/41 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 3 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

#### **AU 17/42 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

The report of the Management Team presented the 'final' version of the Strategic Risk Register which had been reviewed and updated to align with the new Corporate Strategy. Members were reminded that, as the register was considered to be a live document, it would be updated as and when required with periodic reporting to the Audit Committee together with the more formal annual review.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Strategic Risk Register be commended to the Council.

#### **AU 17/43 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND MID-YEAR REVIEW**

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation provided an update on treasury management activity undertaken during April to July

of the current financial year. A mid-year review of the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18 was also presented.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the following be commended to the Council:

- (1) the action taken by officers in respect of treasury management activity for April to July 2017 be endorsed;
- (2) the progress made in respect of property fund investments be noted; and
- (3) the existing parameters intended to limit the Council's exposure to investment risks be retained.

**DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3, PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**AU 17/44 EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT ON OUTCOME OF AUDIT OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17**

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation presented the Audit Findings Report on the outcome of the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17. The Engagement Lead for the Council's external auditor (Grant Thornton UK LLP) advised that she intended to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements and value for money conclusion and commended the Council for a good set of accounts.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the Audit Findings Report on the outcome of the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Director of Finance and Transformation be granted delegated authority to countersign the Letter of Representation, as set out at Annex 2 to the report, when Grant Thornton are ready to issue their opinion; and
- (3) the Chairman be requested to sign the Accounts in the appropriate place.

**AU 17/45 CONSULTATION ON AUDITOR APPOINTMENT FROM 2018/19**

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation set out details of the consultation by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited on the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP to audit the accounts for five years from 2018/19.

**RESOLVED:** That the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP to audit the accounts for five years from 2018/19 be endorsed.

**MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**

**AU 17/46 INTERNAL AUDIT AND COUNTER FRAUD UPDATE**

The report of the Chief Audit Executive provided an update on the work undertaken by the Internal Audit and the Counter Fraud functions for the period April to August 2017.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

**AU 17/47 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chairman moved, it was seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That as public discussion would disclose exempt information, the following matters be considered in private.

**PART 2 - PRIVATE**

**MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**

**AU 17/48 INSURANCE CLAIMS HISTORY: APRIL - JULY 2017**

**(Reasons: LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person)**

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation provided details of the nature and volume of liability and property damage insurance claims submitted during the period April 2017 to July 2017.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 8.27 pm