
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2024

Present: Councillors Leggett (Chair), P Baillie, Chapman, Denness, McCreanor (Vice-Chair), McEwing and Rayment

Apologies: Councillors

39. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 12 February, 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

40. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer detailing the Annual Review of the Constitution.

RESOLVED: To recommend the changes to the Constitution to Council for adoption including the creation of a new Audit Committee with or without independent, non-voting members.

41. **PAY POLICY – CHANGES TO DISCRETIONARY SEVERANCE AND PENSIONS PAYMENT POLICY**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Enabling Services detailing changes to discretionary severance and pensions payment policy.

RESOLVED: To approve revisions to the Severance and Pensions Payments: Discretionary Powers Policy, including the Council adoption statutory redundancy payment levels for Compulsory Redundancy and Voluntary Redundancy.

42. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS 2022/23 TO 2025/26**

The Committee received and noted the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Limits 2022/23 to 2025/26.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Indicators for 2024/25 to 2027/28, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) To note the Executive Director for Enabling Services would report any amendments and in year revisions to the Treasury Management Strategy as part of the quarterly financial and performance monitoring; and
- (iii) To endorse the proposal to continue to explore an alternative Treasury Strategy to generate additional income that can support local services, whilst maintaining a prudent approach.

43. **APPOINTEESHIP SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received and noted the report from the Interim Director of Finance detailing the Appointeeships Progress and Update Report.

RESOLVED: to note:

- (i) The service improvements and reduced likely risk exposure following the recent audit;
- (ii) The intention to review financial thresholds at which clients are referred to Hampshire County Council for deputyship;
- (iii) The plans to introduce charging and invest in a case management system, with consequent positive impact on capacity and quality of service; and
- (iv) That a follow up audit is not expected until further progress has been made.

44. **VOID PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received and noted the report from Councillor Frampton, Cabinet Member for Housing detailing Housing Voids update.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the progress being made to improve housing Void performance and require a further report on progress in July 2024; and
- (ii) To accept and endorse the Voids Action Plan.

45. **ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024-25**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Chief Internal Auditor detailing the Annual Internal Audit Plan 2024-25, Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Charter and Code of Ethics 2024-25.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the provisional Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2024-25; and
- (ii) To note the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Charter and Counter Fraud Charter and Code of Ethics detailed in the report.

46. **EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023/24**

The Committee received and noted the report of the External Auditor detailing the 2023/24 Audit Planning Report.

RESOLVED: to note the 2023/24 Audit Planning Report.