

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 4 October 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: - Councillor McGuire (Chairperson); Aldermen M Hamilton and McClintock; Councillors Carlin, Duffy, Donnelly, Hastings, McGinley McMahon and O'Reilly.

In Attendance:- Mr J Kelpie (Chief Executive), Mrs K McFarland (Director of Health and Community), Mrs P Donnelly (Lead Human Resources Officer), Mrs D McDonnell (Lead Assurance Officer), Mr J Harrigan (Internal Audit Manager) and Mr E Molloy (Development Officer), Mr T Jackson (Independent Advisor) and Miss L Bell (Committee Services Assistant).

AAR96/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Lead Assurance Officer read the notice and summons for the Meeting.

AAR97/18 Apologies

The Lead Assurance Officer completed the roll call. Apologies were received from Alderman Thompson, Councillor Gallagher and Councillor Reilly.

AAR98/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest received from Members.

AAR99/18 Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's business.

Open for Decision

AAR100/18 Internal Audit Reports

The Internal Audit Manager presented the above report, a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. He advised that the purpose of the report was to update members on the Internal Audit

work carried out within Derry City and Strabane District Council in the period June 2018 to September 2018.

Councillor McGinley thanked Officers for the report and commented that it was encouraging to see such a positive audit of absence 10 days after Council had been given a clean bill of financial health. He credited the importance Council management have placed on the issue and commented that the decrease in absence levels was a testament to the work that they had conducted. He commended everyone involved in reducing absence through this clear framework.

Councillor Hastings highlighted the importance of controlling absence levels both for the Council and for the individuals concerned. He further commented that it was good to see absence levels reducing.

Alderman McClintock thanked Officers for the report and expressed that she was happy to see the improvement in absence levels. She added that she would be happy to endorse the report.

The Independent Advisor agreed with Member's comments, adding that it was promising to see that no issues had been highlighted within the report.

The Committee

Recommended that Council endorse the Internal Audit Report.

AAR101/18 Corporate Risk Register

The Lead Assurance Officer presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to present the Council's Corporate Risk Register and details of the latest reviews completed, and to seek Member's comments on relation to the content of the Register.

Councillor Carlin and Alderman M Hamilton joined the Meeting at this point.

The Committee

Recommended that Council endorse the Corporate Risk Register.

Open for Information

AAR102/18 Local Government Auditor's Report - 2018

The Lead Assurance Officer presented the above report, a copy of which was previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to advise Members on the Report on the exercise of the Local Government Auditor's functions for the year ended 31 March 2018.

The Committee

Recommended that Council note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 4.10 pm