



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, LE15 6HP on Tuesday, 31st October, 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor K Payne (Chair) Councillor R Ross (Vice-Chair)
Councillor S Lambert Councillor R Payne
Councillor R Powell Councillor L Stephenson
Councillor A West

OFFICERS PRESENT: Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director for Resources
Andrew Merry Head of Finance
Paul Harvey Grant Thorntons
Rachel Ashley-Caunt Chief Internal Auditor
David Ebbage Democratic Services Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor A Johnson Portfolio Holder

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors K Payne and L Stephenson declared other registrable interests in Item 6 – Statement of Accounts 2021/22, having been Members of the Cabinet for the time period covered by the accounts, it was noted Councillor Payne was also the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Finance at this time.

3 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

4 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions had been received from Members.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion had been received.

6 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22

Report No. 163/2023 was introduced by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources. The report presented the Annual Governance Statement and Draft Audit Findings Report from Grant Thornton LLP for 2021/22, and sought delegated approval for the audited Statement of Accounts 2021/22. It was explained that following previous updates to the Committee, a change made in 2022-23 to recording of certain Section 106 funds held by the Council had been requested by the auditors to also be retrospectively made to the 2021-22 accounts. It was explained this amendment had meant the final accounts had not been ready in time for the publication of the report and therefore it delegated approval for the Chair to sign the final Statement of Accounts.

Following questions from Members it was confirmed that the transfer of Section 106 monies from reserves to creditors was intended to reflect the intention of the Council to spend that money, particularly for agreements where there was a specific project or timescale for spending of the funds.

It was also explained that several minor amendments had been suggested to the Statement by Councillor R Powell outside of the meeting which would be appended to / included in the minutes.

With regard to the External Auditor's draft report at Appendix 3 it was confirmed that the Auditors expected to issue an unqualified opinion with four recommendations agreed by management. Following questions, it was confirmed less than 100 journals were issued a year and the majority of entries were issued by Finance relating to small technical adjustments in accounts, with significant changes expected to be addressed by budget-holders.

It was moved by Councillor L Stephenson and seconded that the recommendations of Report No. 163/2023 be approved with the inclusion of the amendments suggested by Councillor Powell. Upon being put to the vote, with seven votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **DELEGATED** approval the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 in Appendix 1 to the Chair of the Audit and risk committee in line with section 3, subject to the inclusion of minor amendments suggested by Councillor Powell before the meeting.
- b) **APPROVED** the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 in Appendix 2.
- c) **NOTED** the Draft Audit Findings Report in Appendix 3.

7 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 5 December 2023.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.27 pm.
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