

AT A MEETING of the AUDIT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 4 February 2016.

PRESENT:

p Councillor Keith Evans (Chairman)

p Vaughan Clarke (V. Chairman)	a Mark Kemp-Gee
p Adrian Collett	p Andy Moore
p Roger Huxstep	a George Ringrow
p Tony Hooke	p Tom Thacker

Mark Justesen from Ernst & Young also attended this meeting.

137. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes. This would not apply to the confidential part of the meeting.

138. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Kemp-Gee and George Ringrow.

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations were made at the meeting.

140. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

141. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received for this meeting.

142. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman updated the Committee on the current position with regard to the outstanding Member who had yet to complete their related party transaction declaration.

Members noted that although the Member had been written to by the Chairman of this Committee and the County Council's Monitoring Officer, their declaration had yet to be received. Should this continue then, as per the County Council's Constitution procedures, the matter would be brought before the Council's Conduct Advisory Panel.

143. **INFORMATION COMPLIANCE – USE OF REGULATED INVESTIGATORY POWERS**

The Committee considered a report of the Directors of Culture, Communities and Business Services and Policy and Governance – Corporate Services on how the County Council had used its investigatory powers in the last financial year (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The Director reported that since the Committee last met there had been one instance of these powers being used. Members were advised that the Trading Standards Service had adopted the Intelligence Operating Model (IOM) as a means of identifying suspicious activity for further investigation thus ensuring resources were used efficiently. Since its introduction, IOM had contributed to the decline in recent surveillance activity as the nature of investigations identified had not warranted such techniques being used.

The Committee were advised on possible changes to the way this information was to be reported to the Committee in the future and once more details on this were known Members would be advised accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

144. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016-17 TO 2018-19**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services outlining the County Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The main points of the report on the County Council's investment and borrowing activities were explained and a number of detailed questions were answered by the Director of Corporate Resources.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations being reported to Cabinet on the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy at its next meeting be noted.

145. ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

The Committee received and noted the Annual Audit Plan for the County Council (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

In noting the contents of the report, Members were made aware of the different types of computer-based analytics tools used by the Auditors to help identify anomalies and, where required, make recommendations for improvement on the County Council's financial data.

146. MINUTES OF THE PENSION FUND PANEL AND BOARD MEETING (LESS EXEMPT MINUTES)

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Pension Fund Panel and Board meeting held on 6 November 2015 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

147. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, in relation to the following item, the public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public are present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the exempt minutes.

148. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PENSION FUND PANEL AND BOARD MEETING (EXEMPT MINUTES)

The Committee received and noted the exempt minutes of the Pension Fund Panel and Board meeting held 6 November 2015 (Item 11 in the Minute Book).