

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

27 March 2019

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Taylor (Chairman)	McLean
Birnie	Silwal
Douris	Tindall

**Also Attended:**

Councillor Elliot, Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources.

**Officers:**

J Deane	Corporate Director (Finance and Operations)
N Howcutt	Assistant Director (Finance & Resources)
J Doe	
F Jump	Group Manager (Financial Services)
B Hosier	Group Manager Procurement & Contracted Services
S Whelan	
M Sells	Corporate & Democratic Support Officer

**Others:**

M Towler	Mazars
S Ironmonger	Grant Thornton
A Banister	Grant Thornton

The meeting began at 7.30 pm

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Elliot and Councillor McLean

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interest

### 3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on ..... Were agreed by the members present and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda Item 4)

There was no Public Participation

## **5. EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

Sarah Knowles presented an update regarding the External Audit Progress Report

Councillor Tindall would like to know when they can expect to see the fair funding review, J.Deane confirmed he hadn't received any communication to suggest it would be delayed and therefore it should be late November as usual.

## **6. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

Mark Towler presented an update regarding the Internal Audit Progress Report

Councillor Birnie would like to know if 22 recommendations is acceptable or out of the ordinary, M.Towler confirmed it was within normal range.

## **9. INTERNAL AUDIT: SERVICE REPORT**

The Internal Audit Service Reports were presented to the committee

Ben Hosier provided further explanation regarding the procurement strategy Report.

Regarding recommendation 2 Councillor Birnie enquires if choosing the wrong supplier for projects is a risk that solely sits with the procurement team, B.Hosier confirms this is the case and stresses the importance of ensuring transparency regarding requirements and having a robust tender process to ensure the correct suppliers are selected.

Councillor Douris and Councillor Taylor congratulated B.Hosier on his handling of the recommendations and thanked him and his team for their hard work and professionalism.

J.Doe and S.Whelan provided an update on the Development Service Report.

Councillor Douris enquires if DBC use any kind of "handcuff agreement" if an employee leaves within a certain timeframe after receiving training. J.Doe confirms in some cases there is a payback period but this only applies to long term education rather than general training.

Councillor Douris would like to know if the number of staff in planning enforcement has increased, J.Doe confirms they have increased by 0.5 FTE, but that the productivity of the department has dramatically increased.

## **10. AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The new work plan will be completed after the May elections when the new Chair has been appointed.

Councillor Taylor has made the decision to stand down at the next elections, therefore this was his final Audit meeting, and The Committee thanked Councillor Taylor for his contribution to the Audit Committee over the past 12 years and wished his well for the future.

The meeting ended at 20:20