

# Meeting of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee

## Monday 22 July 2024

**Chair:** County Councillor Alan Schofield

### Part I (Open to Press and Public)

#### Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference

The committee considered a report detailing the membership, Chairmanship and Terms of Reference for the 2024/25 municipal year; a review by officers of the Local Government Association's "Ten questions for audit committees"; and the proposed process for the appointment of an independent co-opted member to the committee.

**Resolved:** That

- i) The appointment of County Councillor A Schofield as Chair and County Councillor J Singleton as Deputy Chair of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee for the 2024-25 municipal year be noted;
- ii) The membership of the committee, following the county council's Annual Meeting held 23 May 2024, be noted;
- iii) The Audit, Risk and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference be noted;
- iv) Officers' review of the Local Government Association's "Ten questions for audit committees" be noted and commended;
- v) An Appointments Sub-Committee, to manage and oversee the recruitment of an independent co-opted member to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, be established as set out in the report;
- vi) The Appointments Sub-Committee be authorised to determine the job specification and recruitment timeline, consider and shortlist applications, and carry out interviews for the role of independent co-opted member to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee; and
- vii) The Appointments Sub-Committee's recommendation be presented to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee's next meeting on 14 October 2024.

#### Treasury Management Activity 2023/24

Mike Jensen, Director of Investment presented a report which provided a review of the council's treasury management activities during 2023/24 and the position at 31 March 2024.



**Resolved:** That the review of Treasury Management Activity 2023/24 be noted.

### **Amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25**

Mike Jensen, Director of Investment presented a report which set out a proposed amendment to the council's Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25.

**Resolved:** That the amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, as set out in the report, be recommended to Full Council for approval.

### **Approval to the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2023/24**

Khadija Saeed, Head of Corporate Finance presented the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts for Lancashire County Council and Lancashire County Pension Fund for approval.

**Resolved:** That the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts for Lancashire County Council and Lancashire County Pensions Fund, as set out, be approved.

### **External Audit – Lancashire County Council Audit Plan 2023/24**

Stuart Basnett, Senior Audit Manager at Grant Thornton UK presented the Lancashire County Council Audit Plan for 2023/24.

**Resolved:** That the Lancashire County Council Audit Plan 2023/24 be noted.

### **External Audit – Lancashire County Council Pension Fund Audit Plan 2023/24**

Stuart Basnett, Senior Audit Manager at Grant Thornton UK presented the Lancashire County Pension Fund Audit Plan for 2023/24.

**Resolved:** That the Lancashire County Pension Fund Audit Plan 2023/24 be noted.

### **External Audit - Audit Progress Report and Sector Update**

Stuart Basnett, Senior Audit Manager at Grant Thornton UK presented the Audit Progress Report and Sector Update as of July 2024.

**Resolved:** That the Audit Progress Report and Sector Update for July 2024 be noted.

### **Internal Audit Annual Report 2023/24**

Andy Dalecki, Head of Internal Audit presented the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2023/24.

**Resolved:** That the Internal Audit Annual Report 2023/24, and the information it provides to support the council's Annual Governance Statement, be noted.



## **Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register - Quarterly Update**

Heloise MacAndrew, Director of Law and Governance presented the updated Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register.

**Resolved:** That the updated Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register be approved.

## **Chairman's Annual Report**

County Councillor Alan Schofield, Chair of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee presented the Chairman's Annual Report for 2023/24.

**Resolved:** That the Chairman's Annual Report for 2023/24 be noted.

## **Draft Work Plan 2024/25**

The committee considered the draft work plan for the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee for 2024/25.

**Resolved:** That the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee work plan for 2024/25 be noted.

## **Part II (Not Open to Press and Public)**

### **Appendix 'C' to Item 12 - Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register - Quarterly Update**

(Not for Publication – Exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interests in disclosing the information).

The committee considered the private and confidential Appendix 'C' to Item 12 - Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register - Quarterly Update.

**Resolved:** That

- i) Appendix C to Item 12 – Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register – Quarterly Update, be noted; and
- ii) A report from Digital Services, as discussed, be presented to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee's next meeting on 14 October 2024.

### **Counter Financial Crime, Investigations and Whistleblowing Annual Report**

(Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.)



Peter Walker, Investigations Manager presented the private and confidential Counter Financial Crime, Investigations and Whistleblowing Annual Report and an updated set of policies and procedures for the committee's approval.

**Resolved:** That

- i) The Counter Financial Crime, Investigations and Whistleblowing Annual Report be noted; and
- ii) The Anti-Money Laundering Policy Statement and Strategy, the Counter Financial Crime Policy, the Financial Crime Sanction and Prosecution Policy, and the Whistleblowing Policy, as set out, be approved.

### **Update on the Overpayment of Salaries**

(Not for Publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972. It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.)

Noel O'Neill, Interim Director of Finance and Commerce presented a private and confidential report which provided an update on a previously reported issue with the overpayment of salaries.

**Resolved:** That the report on the overpayment of salaries be noted.

