

ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

6 AUGUST 2014

PRESENT

Councillor M. Whetton (in the Chair).

Councillors Mrs. L. Evans (Vice-Chairman), C. Boyes, B. Brotherton, D. Butt and T. Ross.

Also Present: Councillors Acton, Cordingley, Mrs. Lloyd, A. Western, D. Western and Walsh.

In attendance

Director of Finance (Mr. I. Duncan),

Director of Human Resources (Ms. J. Hyde),

Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Ms. J. Le Fevre),

Head of Financial Management (Mr. I. Kershaw),

Head of Human Resources Business Partnering (Ms. D. Lucas),

Finance Manager (Mr. D. Muggeridge),

Democratic Services Officer (Mr. I. Cockill).

Also in attendance: Mr. M. Waite, Grant Thornton UK LLP.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J. Baugh.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. PRE-AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2014

Further to Minute No. of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2014, the Director of Finance submitted the full pre-audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014, which he had approved as the Council's 'Responsible Financial Officer'.

The Committee also received the 2013/14 Revenue Budget Monitoring Outturn report which had been considered by the Executive on 28 July 2014.

In consideration of the Accounts, the Chairman requested the Director of Finance to clarify some of the variations reflected in the financial statements, namely:

an increase in income in Housing Services; approximately £20 million of additions to the balance sheet under the heading 'other land and buildings'; and provision for bad and doubtful short term debts.

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The Director of Finance also responded to specific queries relating to:

use of the Long Term Accommodation Decant Reserve and National Non-Domestic Rates Reserve; Employee rationalisation; the estimated value of the remaining Sale Waterside Private Finance Initiative contract; the joint funding arrangement for Phase 3b of the Metrolink Scheme; and the Council's liability for the Altrincham Interchange scheme.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Committee notes the Statutory Financial Accounts for the Year 2013/14 (Accounts 2014), submitted to the external auditor and public inspection.
- (2) That the Committee conveys its appreciation to the Director of Finance and his team for the work which has gone in to producing a good set of Accounts.

16. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining item of business because of the likelihood of disclosure of "exempt information" which falls within Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

(Note: The Head of Financial Management and the Finance Manager left the meeting.)

17. INVESTIGATION INTO BUDGET MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS AT TRAFFORD COUNCIL

The Committee considered a report on the investigation into the Council's budget monitoring arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations set out in the report be approved with the amendments now determined.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and finished at 8.32 p.m.