

Chair Reports to Full Council –

Audit and Standards Committee Mar 2020

New Independent Member

The Chair welcomed Stuart Arnfield, Director of Finance and Resources, Burnley College as the new Independent Member of the Committee.

Monitoring Officer Report – Local Resolution

The committee noted the local resolution of a standards issue for a Council member.

Audit Plan 2019-20

The External Auditor presented their plan for the Council's audit for the current year. This highlights the main areas, timetable and fees. The planned end of the Audit and presentation of Accounts to committee is normally by the deadline at the end of July. However, in this audit plan it is stated as 30 Sept 2020. This is due to increased requirements for the audit and resourcing the plan, which is replicated nationally due to the disruption caused by Coronavirus, and has resulted in statutory deadlines being pushed back.

The fee for the audit has also increased due to additional requirements placed on auditors by the Financial Reporting Council as well as other increased resourcing needs. The increased fee for the 2018/19 audit has been independently verified by the Public Sector Auditor Appointments Limited (PSAA) after challenge by the Head of Finance and Property. Discussions to finalise outstanding and increased fees for the 2019/20 fees are ongoing.

Internal Audit Progress Report Quarter 3

The oversight of Audit activity is part of the role of the committee and the most recently available quarters report was provided. This outlines summaries of issued reports and issues as well as updates on the planned activity.

Strategic Risk Register

The Committee considered the Strategic Risk Register and its plan of assurance. The members discussed the need to include the risk of Pandemic Virus and the actions which the Council were taking and planning to address this risk.