

MINUTES OF THE JOINT AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE HADLEIGH ON
MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: **BABERGH**

Michael Creffield
Alastair McCraw
David Rose
William Shropshire (Chairman)
Fenella Swan
John Ward
Stephen Williams

MID SUFFOLK

John Field
Lavinia Hadingham
John Matthissen
Suzie Morley
Dave Muller
Kevin Welsby
Jill Wilshaw

Councillors Tony Bavington and Lesley Mayes were unable to be present.

14 SUBSTITUTES

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 5, a substitute was in attendance as follows:-

Alastair McCraw (substituting for Tony Bavington)

15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

16 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

17 PETITIONS

None received.

18 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received

19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

20 CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Katherine Steel, Assistant Director – Corporate Resources introduced Paper JAC85 summarising changes to the appointment process for the Councils’ External Auditors and responded to Members’ questions regarding criteria for appointments and the operation of the new process. Members were asked to make recommendations to both Councils regarding future arrangements.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) That the arrangements for appointing External Auditors at the end of the 2017/18 Audit, as set out in paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 of Paper JAC85 be noted.**
- (2) That the Council opts-in to the Local Government Association Sector Led Body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd for the independent appointment of the Councils’ External Auditor, beginning with responsibilities for the financial year 2018/19.**

21 IMPACT OF BREXIT ON OUR TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Melissa Evans, Corporate Manager – Financial Services introduced Paper JAC86 setting out some of the implications to date of the UK’s Referendum decision to leave the European Union. Members noted that the Council’s Treasury Management Advisers are providing daily updates on the situation and see no cause for concern at present.

In response to questions from Members, Officers confirmed that the CCLA is UK based and that the Councils’ Treasury Management Strategy did not make provision for use of any foreign currency funds. Members were advised that although the revaluation of the CCLA had seen a fall of 4%, there would be no effect unless we were to sell, so the expected return on investment was still in the region of 4-5% and these returns would mitigate the reduction in the base rate. Katherine Steel agreed to advise Members outside the meeting as to whether the UBS Multi Asset Fund is UK based only.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper JAC86 be noted.

22 COMPLAINTS MONITORING REPORT

Caroline Whatling, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced Paper JAC87 updating Members on Code of Conduct Complaints. Members noted the correct Totals of ‘9’ and ‘2’ for lines 1 and 5 respectively of the Table in paragraph 8 of the report.

In response to a question about any Member training issues which might have been identified as a result of the complaints received, the Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that there was no common thread other than the need to address an ambiguous wording in the Register of Interest Forms (based on the Suffolk Code of Conduct) regarding electoral expenses.

RESOLVED

That the contents of Paper JAC87 be noted.

23 UPDATE ON COMPLIANCE WITH PART 7 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

Caroline Whatling, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer introduced Paper JAC88 updating Members on the current position. She confirmed that the Monitoring Officer is considering appropriate action which might be taken with regard to the completion and return of outstanding forms.

RESOLVED

That the measures taken to comply with the requirements within Part 1, Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 be noted.

24 FORWARD PLAN 2016/17

Linda Sheppard, Senior Governance Support Officer referred to the on-going work to align the Forward Plan (Paper JAC89) with the Joint Strategic Plan. Following a query on the Risk Register Annual update, this would continue to come to the June meeting with six monthly updates to Executive and Strategy Committees.

That the content of Paper JAC89 be noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.35 a.m.

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Chairman