

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER

29TH SEPTEMBER 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: R H Coleman (Chairman), P W M Young (Vice-Chairman),
B S Dawes, N J Desmond, P Dyke, F M Oborski MBE and C Rogers.

Observers:

Councillor M Rayner attended as an observer.

AUD.21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor V Caulfield.

AUD.22 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor A Coleman was appointed as a substitute for Councillor V Caulfield.

AUD.23 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

AUD.24 Minutes

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

AUD.25 Audit Findings Report for Wyre Forest District Council 2020-21 Accounts

The Committee received a report from Grant Thornton (GT) detailing the findings of the external audit of accounts for 2020-21. The Engagement Lead summarised the main conclusions of the report for Members, and explained that the deadline for sign off of the accounts had this year been set two months earlier than the previous year's deadline. The Engagement Lead emphasised that given the current Covid-19 challenges still being faced it was a major achievement that the work had been completed in the given timeframe. GT had chosen Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) as one of the Audits they were confident could be completed by the deadline. To give national context, most audits would not meet their deadline this year but WFDC one of the very few who would.

Members were informed that there had only been one material error identified which was the deprecation change which resulted in a number of revisions and has been updated but adjustment has no impact on position for year.

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The Chairman thanked Grant Thornton for choosing WFDC to work with to complete the audit by the deadline and felt that this was a reflection on the good work of the finance team.

Decision: The report was noted by the committee.

AUD.26 Statement of Accounts 2020-21

The Committee received a report from the Chief Financial Officer on the Statement of Accounts 2020-21. The purpose of the report was to present the changes that had been required to the Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, so far, and as a result of the ongoing audit undertaken by Grant Thornton UK LLP (GT), and to provide an update on the current status of the external audit work. There was also a requirement to provide an updated version of the Letter of Representation to the auditors, before they would issue the audit opinion for 2020/21; the draft wording of this was attached to the agenda pack for approval.

The Audit Committee agreed:

1.1 The Audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 be approved and authorise the Corporate Director: Resources to make any minor changes that are appropriate as part of resolution of the final external audit queries should this be necessary.

1.2 The draft Letter of Representation for 2020/21 attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved noting that those charged with Governance concur with the S.151 Officer's view that the changes identified in the Audit Findings Report (referenced in this report), not updated in the accounts, are not material. To also authorise the S.151 Officer (Corporate Director: Resources), and the Chair of the Audit Committee to make any minor changes that are appropriate as part of the resolution of the final external audit queries should this be necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.32pm.