

**A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Councillors; Burgess (P), Chegwyn (P), Dickson, Jacobs (P), Forder, Henshaw, Scard (P) and Wright (P).

16. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 20 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

19. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received.

20. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions received.

21. INDEPENDENT PERSONS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer, which advised Members of the need to start the recruitment process for an Independent Person under The Localism Act 2011.

The Chairman put forward a vote of thanks to Mr Richard Perry on behalf of the Committee for his continued support, and asked those present for a letter to be sent reiterating this to Mr Perry.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) A letter of recognition be compiled for the current Independent Person (Mr R Perry), and
- b) The recruitment process for the Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011 commence, as set out in the recommendation of the report of the Monitoring Officer.

22. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL'S EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S (ERNST & YOUNG)

Consideration was given to a report of the Council's external auditors Ernst & Young), that summarised the findings from the 2012/13 audit.

Members were advised that the audit was substantially complete and included the messages arising from the audit of the Councils financial statements and the results of the work Ernst & Young had undertaken to assess the Council's arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

Ernst & Young advised that the audit had gone smoothly due to good quality financial statements and supporting working papers being presented for audit. Where possible reliance had been placed on the work of Internal Audit.

Ernst & Young referred to the Executive Summary and advised that they expected to complete the outstanding work shortly. No objections or questions had been received by members of the public. Ernst and young expected to give an unqualified audit report on the Financial statements and an unqualified value for money conclusion after the financial statements have been approved by the Policy and Organisation committee on 25th September.

Ernst & Young highlighted page 9 of the report indicating that there would be no additional fees for the forthcoming year and thanked the financial team for their support and cooperation during the audit process.

RESOLVED: That the conclusions set out in the Audit Results Report 2012/13 be noted and that the letter of management representation be approved and presented to Policy and Organisation Board for final approval.

23. LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

Consideration was given to a report by the Borough Treasurer for Members to agree the Letter of Representation for the Final Accounts 2012/13.

RESOLVED: That the Letter of Representation be referred to the Policy and Organisation Board for formal approval.

24. INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING STATEMENT TO 30.06.2013

Consideration was given to the Performance Statement of the Internal Audit from 1st April 2013 to 30th June 2013.

Further to a question from a Member it was agreed, that a details of the important recommendations on page 2 of the report be provided in the future within the monitoring statement at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Internal Audit Monitoring Statement be noted
- b) the Committee support the arrangement for the sharing of the Head of Internal Audit to be extended to include Test Valley Borough Council (in addition to Eastleigh Borough Council) from the 1st October 2013
- c) a list of recommendations and supporting documents arising from audit work undertaken be incorporated within the next monitoring statement

25. ANY OTHER ITEMS

Ernst & Young advised that Rose would be leaving the team to take up retirement and was thanked for her work.

The meeting concluded at 18:15 pm

CHAIRMAN