



WELWYN HATFIELD

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020) came into force on Saturday 4 April 2020 to enable councils to hold remote committee meetings during the Covid 19 pandemic period. This is to ensure local authorities can conduct business during this current public health emergency.

This meeting of Audit Committee will be held remotely under these regulations, via the Zoom application and will be webcast to ensure accessibility by the public and press.

Please ask for:
Alison Marston

17 September 2020

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE to be held on Monday 28 September 2020 at 7.30 pm on zoom.

Yours faithfully

Corporate Director
Public Protection, Planning and Governance

AGENDA PART 1

1. SUBSTITUTION OF MEMBERS

To note any substitution of Committee members made in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

2. APOLOGIES

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2020 (previously circulated).

4. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 12

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

To note declarations of Members' disclosable pecuniary interests, non-disclosable pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PETITIONS

Up to thirty minutes will be available for questions from members of the public on issues relating to the work of the Committee and to receive any petitions.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Pages 5 - 26)

Report of the Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance), which brings to Members' attention the current strategic and top operational risks facing the Council, as determined by Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service. These risks have been reviewed at the performance clinic in August 2020 and reflect the assessments in place for the quarter July to September 2020.

8. SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE - PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 27 - 38)

Report of the Shared Internal Audit Service which provides an update on the progress in delivering the Annual Audit Plan for 2020-21 as at 11 September 2020.

9. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020 (Pages 39 - 84)

Report of Ernst & Young LLP providing a summary of the findings from the 2019/20 audit of the Council.

10. INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE OVERSIGHT OF LOCAL AUDIT AND THE TRANSPARENCY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORTING ("REDMOND REVIEW") (Pages 85 - 92)

Report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) to make the committee aware of the government commissioned independent review of local authority audit and potential implications for the council.

11. REVIEW OF CORPORATE ANT-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES (Pages 93 - 134)

Report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) to seek comment from the committee on the proposed anti-fraud and corruption policies.

12. SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee is asked to resolve:

That under Section 100(A) (2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for item 12 (if any) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A (3) and Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act as amended.

In resolving to exclude the public in respect of the exempt information, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART II

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN EXEMPT NATURE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR

Circulation: Councillors G.Michaelides (Chairman) L.Chesterman
S.Markiewicz (Vice-Chairman) F.Marsh
M.Birleson J.Skoczylas
J.Boulton

Corporate Management Team
Press and Public (except Part II Items)

If you require any further information about this Agenda please contact Alison Marston, Governance Service on 01707357413 or email – democracy@welhat.gov.uk