

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting: 8 September 2021

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Stuart Corris (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Mike Hurleston (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Paul Ankers, Keith Holloway and John Taylor.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 14 July 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor

Interest

Mike Hurleston	Agenda Item 6 'Statement of Accounts 2020/21' as a member of the Board of the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation.
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It was noted that the Standards Committee had approved a dispensation to enable Councillor Hurleston as a member of the Board of the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation and who would otherwise have had a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter being discussed to take part in the debate and vote at the meeting.

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Chair on any matters within the powers and duties of the Area Committee, subject to the exclusions set out in the Code of Practice.

No public questions were submitted.

5. INFORMING THE AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT - ENQUIRIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

The Corporate Director, Corporate and Support Services and Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which provided Members with details of the Council's response to queries raised by the external auditors, Mazars, as part of the Audit Risk Assessment.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which provided Members with the detail of the Annual Accounts 2020/21.

The following questions were made/issues raised:

- In response to a question from the Chair relating to missing data from a pie chart regarding the age profile of the population in Stockport, Members were assured that this would be corrected before final publication of the accounts.
- Members commented that the whole of the introductory text was very clear and well presented.
- Members noted the volatility in relation to valuations and the reasons behind this.
- Members of Audit Committee wished to record their thanks to all staff involved in production of the Annual Accounts.

RESOLVED – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That where the outstanding work in relation to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund is not completed, in the event of no material changes as a result of the outstanding audit work, the approval of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Chair of Audit Committee on receipt of advice from the External Auditor.

7. MAZARS - AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT

The external auditors, Mazars submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which provided Members with a summary of Mazars' audit conclusions.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. SIGNING OF THE 2020/21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND MANAGEMENT LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED – (i) That the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts be noted.

(ii) That the Management Letter of Representation be noted.

(iii) In the event of no material changes as a result of the outstanding audit work, approval of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts be delegated to the Corporate Director, Corporate

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and Support Services in consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee on receipt of advice from the External Auditor.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm