

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE (ADJOURNED FROM 15 FEBRUARY, 2017)

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 29 MARCH, 2017

Present: Councillors G Owen (Chair), R Cassie (Vice Chair), P W Bellarby, C Clark (substitute for A J C Cullinane), J Ingram, J J Latham, G Petrie and C Shand.

Apologies: Cllr A J C Cullinane, B H Stuart, I S Tait and M Watt

Officers: Director of Business Services, Chief Internal Auditor, Corporate Finance Manager, Head of Service (Transportation), Consultation and Engagement Officer (Customer Communications and Improvement) (Mrs L Gravener), Legal Services Manager (Governance) and Committee Officer (Mrs S Rawlins).

Also in attendance: Anne MacDonald and Gillian Woolman, Audit Scotland.

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone present.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2(a). PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to:-

- (1) have due regard to the need to :-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) consider the contents of equality impact assessments, where provided, and to take those into account when reaching a decision.

2(b). RESOLUTION

The Committee **agreed** in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Items 3, 4 and 5 so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 1, 6, 12 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. OUTCOMES FROM TOPIC SCORING ACTIVITIES – IT SYSTEM FOR COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION AND COLLECTION OF INCOME AND DEBTS

In reference to the minute of the Audit Committee meeting of 15 February 2017 (Item 9, Page 6), there was circulated a report dated 09 March, 2017, by the Director of Business Services which asked the Committee to (1) consider the report and decide whether to dismiss it from future work or recommend to the appropriate Area or Policy Committee that it consider the findings as part of its own scrutiny activity. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the current and new invoice processing procedure.

Members discussed Council Tax Debt collection and invoicing.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) there was nothing more to be done and that the work of the Audit Committee on this item is now complete.

4. OUTCOMES FROM TOPIC SCORING ACTIVITIES – COUNCIL'S STRATEGY FOR DISPOSING OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

In reference to the minute of the Audit Committee meeting of 15 February 2017 (Item 9, Page 6), there was circulated a report dated 08 March, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which asked the Committee to (1) consider the report and decide whether to dismiss the matter from future work or recommend to the appropriate Area or Policy Committee that it consider the findings as part of its own scrutiny activity. Appendix 1 to the report provided the list of assets sold between 1 September 2014 and 31 May 2016.

Members discussed disposal of assets and replacement strategies.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) there was nothing more to be done and that the work of the Audit Committee on this item is now complete.