

## ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 28 JUNE, 2017

**Audit Committee Members:**

Provost W Howatson (Chair) and Mrs S Duncan.

**Apology:** Mr E Sinclair (Vice Chair).

**Officers:** Mr A Coldwells, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Mr A Wood, Chief Finance Officer, Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board; Mr D Hughes, Chief Internal Auditor; Ms S Gordon, Principal Accountant; and Mr N David, Senior Committee Officer, all Aberdeenshire Council.

**Also in Attendance:**

Ms A MacDonald, Audit Scotland, External Auditor.

### 1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair asked for declarations of interest. No interests were declared.

### 2. STATEMENT OF EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint Board **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to 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; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

### QUORUM

The Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, highlighted that Mr Sinclair had unexpectedly been unable to attend the meeting and that therefore meant that the Audit Committee was inquorate.

It was **agreed** that those present consider the items on the agenda with a view to making a recommendation on each of them to a reconvened meeting of the Audit Committee, to take place at the conclusion of the Integration Joint Board meeting that afternoon, and once a further member had been appointed.

### 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL, 2017

There was circulated and **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee of 19 April, 2017. It was **agreed** to recommend approval of this Minute to the reconvened meeting of the Audit Committee.

#### **4. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND INTERNAL AUDIT FINANCIAL CONTROL STATEMENT 2016 / 2017**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee of 30 August, 2016 there was circulated a report dated 19 June, 2017, by the Chief Internal Auditor, Aberdeenshire Council on the Internal Audit Annual Report and Internal Audit Financial Control Statement 2016 / 2017.

The report explained that the Internal Audit Plan for 2016 / 2017 was agreed at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 30 August, 2016 following agreement of the reporting arrangements for Internal Audit Outputs in Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, and the Integration Joint Board. The Plan consisted of one audit for the Integration Joint Board, with a number of specific audits agreed by Aberdeenshire Council's Scrutiny and Audit Committee relating to Adult Social Care in the Council and by NHS Grampian's Audit Committee in relation to audits for that body.

Appendix A to the report detailed the position with audits contained in 2016 / 2017 Plans.

Appendix B to the report outlined Internal Audit's Annual Opinion and concluded that reasonable assurance could be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's internal control system in the year to 31 March, 2017.

It was **agreed** to recommend to the reconvened meeting of the Audit Committee to note:-

- (1) the Internal Financial Control Statement for 2016 / 2017,
- (2) that the Chief Internal Auditor had confirmed the organisational independence of Internal Audit, and
- (3) that there had been no limitation to the scope of Internal Audit work during 2016 / 2017.

#### **5. UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH, 2017**

There was circulated a report dated 20 June, 2017, by the Chief Finance Officer on the Unaudited Annual Accounts for year to 31 March, 2017.

The report explained that the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board had a statutory responsibility to prepare its Annual Accounts by 30 June following the 31 March financial year end. With the integration start day being 1 April, 2016, this was the first full year of formal accounts. The format of the accounts followed local authority accounts and hence complied with the Code of Practice on Local Authority accounting in United Kingdom.

The Annual Accounts contained a number of narrative reports, along with the financial statements, with annual net expenditure of £301,937,000 against a budget of £301,946,000 for Aberdeenshire, leaving a balance of £9,000 to carry forward into 2017 / 2018.

The previous accounts which ran from 6 February, 2016 to 31 March, 2016 only had expenditure covering the salary of the Chief Officer, any expenses in connection with meetings of the Integration Joint Board during the period and the audit fee. A copy of the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board Annual Accounts 2016 / 2017 (subject to audit) were included as an appendix to the report.

It was **agreed** to recommend to the reconvened meeting of the Audit Committee that the Unaudited Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March, 2017 be approved.