

The conclusion was unable to be completed as focus turned to the 20-21 audit. The 19-20 audit should be completed in July and findings brought to the Governance Committee at the earliest opportunity after completion.

Decision: The update was noted.

21.G.13 Chorley Borough Council Annual Audit Letter

Michael Green, Grant Thornton clarified that the Annual Audit Letter was published upon completion of the audit and presented to the Committee.

In response to a Member's query about any changes to the costs due to the delays and Covid-19, Michael Green explained that there had been engagement with external experts, there would be further variation but discussions were ongoing with officers.

Decision: The update was noted.

21.G.14 Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Tony Furber, Principal Financial Accountant provided a verbal update to members.

He felt that it was unfortunate that the work could not be completed by the end of March but praised the efforts of officers to get so close. The gaps that formed due to the unprecedented nature of Covid-19 have now closed and although the 19-20 audit was still incomplete, good progress had been made with information for the 20-21.

Decision: The update was noted.

21.G.15 Risk Management Strategy

Dawn Highton, Service Lead Audit and Risk provided an explanation of how the Risk Management strategy is one of the policies that underpin the Council's governance framework. The Risk Management Strategy was last reviewed in 2018. The strategy laid out how the Council manages risk. The Council has a dedicated risk management system and after approval, training of the strategy would be offered to Officers.

Decision: The update was noted.

21.G.16 Update - Local Code of Corporate Governance

Dave Whelan, Legal Services Team Leader advised that the purpose of the agenda item was to seek approval for the updated Code of Corporate Governance. There were no significant changes, but those changes made were designed to keep the Code up to date and reflect the structure of the Council.

Decision: The Updated Local Code of Corporate Governance was approved.

21.G.17 Internal Audit Plan 2021 - 2022

Dawn Highton explained that the Internal Audit Plan 2021- 2022 was a comprehensive risk review of services, and a vehicle for audit workload to be identified and prioritised.

The internal audit service had a turbulent year and a challenging plan for 21/22. As a result, two additional auditors were being recruited in order to be able to deliver the plan.

There is confidence that the Council will be reaccredited with the ISO 9001 Quality Management System by the end of the calendar year.

Progress will be reported over the year, starting with the first progress report in September covering work completed between April and August, then January covering work between September and December and an annual report including all completed work for the year in May or June 2022.

Within the report there were performance indicators and targets to keep members informed regarding the progress made with the completion of the plan.

Dawn in response to a Question from Members confirmed that Covid-19 may impact upon the delivery of the plan if officers remain involved with the response.

Decision: The report was noted.

21.G.18 RIPA Application Update

No RIPA Applications were made.

21.G.19 Work Programme

Decision: The work programme was noted

Chair

Date