

Governance Committee

1. This report summarises the business undertaken at the Governance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 31 July 2024. Please note that the report may not reflect the wording or detail included in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed. Reports presented at the meeting, and the link to the recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=688&MId=10621&Ver=4>

General Report of the Meeting Held on 31 July 2024

External Audit Update Report

2. We received a progress update from Grant Thornton who had now commenced work on auditing the 2023-2024 accounts. The Committee were informed about the Audit Plan and it was noted that the Audit Findings Report, Opinion and Auditors Annual Report are expected to be presented to the committee at its November 2024 meeting. We asked a number of questions and subsequently noted the report.

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023/24

3. The Director of Finance and S151 Officer presented the report which covered treasury management activities over the year and included capital expenditure and financing, the council's borrowing need and the treasury position as at 31 March 2024 as well as a commentary on the local and national environment provided by the council's financial advisors, Link Asset Services. We asked a number of questions and subsequently noted the report.

Governance Committee Annual Report

4. The Committee welcomed the Annual Report, the production of which arose following the effectiveness review undertaken last year which measured the committee against Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) best practice. We endorsed the Annual Report and agreed it be presented to Full Council for consideration.

Standards Update – 2023-24

5. We received an update from the Head of Legal and Procurement in relation to member standards across 2023-2024. We were pleased that overall, complaints regarding conduct were low in number and demonstrated good standards of behaviour amongst members. We asked a number of questions and subsequently noted the report.

Recommendations

To note the report.

Councillor Alan Platt

Chair of the Governance Committee