

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Remote Locations via Video Conference

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Maria McLean, Councillor Walter Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were the Chief Executive, Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Audit and Risk Manager, and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer, as clerk to the Committee.

1. Chair

Councillor Donald Gatt, as Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny, chaired the meeting.

2. Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests *

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from Group Leaders or Spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

3. Minute of meeting of 27 October 2021

The minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee dated 27 October 2021 was submitted and approved.

4. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

5. Work of the Internal Audit Section- Update

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Internal Audit Section.

Following consideration, where Officers answered questions on cyber security and petty cash, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

6. Report on the Work of the Internal Audit Section in the Period from 1 November 2021 to 15 December 2021

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) advised the Committee on the work of the Internal Audit Section for the period from 1 November 2021 to 15 December 2021.

Following consideration, where Officers answered questions on Housing Benefit and Universal Credit, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

7. Question Time ***

Councillor Eagle sought clarification on how large scale projects, such as the work in Findochy Harbour, could be reviewed.

In response, the Chief Executive advised that it would depend on the nature of the project as some have project boards and others are reviewed by the Council through the service.

The Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance advised he would have a discussion with Councillor Eagle outwith the meeting with regards to any specific issues.

Councillor Alexander sought clarification on what would happen if the funding from the Scottish Government did not cover the costs of the new bridge in Lossiemouth.

In response the Chief Executive advised that the Head of Service would be best placed to answer that.

The Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance advised that the Council would have a contractual responsibility to the contactors but he was not aware of the funding that had been made available for the project.

Councillor Alexander stated his concerns about the project going over budget and advised he would speak to the relevant Heads of Service for clarification.