

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Shared Finance Manager
To: Governance and Audit Committee 10 March 2015
(Author: Mark Finch Shared Manager Finance
Subject: Audit Mandatory Enquiries
Purpose: To confirm the response to the external audit mandatory enquiries

Recommendation:

- 1) That Members approve the response to the external audit mandatory enquiries

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In order to comply with a number of International Standards of Auditing, external auditors are required to obtain an understanding on how those charged with governance exercise oversight of management's processes in relation to fraud, laws and regulations and going concern. To assist this work, which forms part of the annual audit, the external auditor issues a number of questions to those charged with governance. In previous years these enquiries have been made directly to the Chairman of Governance and Audit Committee. In order to recognise the whole committee's governance role, this year these audit enquiries are being brought before the committee.
- 1.2 Appendix A sets out the enquiries to those charged with governance. It has been pre-populated to a large extent where possible, following discussion between the Chairman of Governance and Audit Committee and the Finance Manager. However one question on fraud asks for an opinion, therefore it would be inappropriate to pre-empt the Committee's response.
- 1.3 Members are asked to consider these responses and to be satisfied that they correspond to the committee's own view of affairs, or whether the responses require modification.

2.0 OPTIONS

- 2.1 To approve the responses to the mandatory enquiries so that these can be issued to the external auditor.
- 2.2 To make amendments to the responses so that these can be issued to the external auditor.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is good practice for a collective view to be formed as this promotes good corporate governance arrangements.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 4.1 This demonstrates the role that Governance and Audit Committee has at centre of the authority's governance arrangements).

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

5.2.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 The Audit Committee, through its terms of reference, helps to ensure that the service areas and risks reported are working towards the efficient and effective delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Risk Management**

5.9.1 The Committee supports the oversight of the Council's risk management framework, which will in turn ensure that the Council's key risks are accurately reviewed and addressed. This is ensured by following best practice and adopting sound terms of reference.

5.10 **Staffing**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.11.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 None

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 None

Background papers:- None

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Mark Finch – Shared Manager Finance
Telephone Number: 01775 761161
Email: Mark.finch@breckland-sholland.gov.uk

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Mandatory Service / Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Enquiries to those charged with governance