



Emergency Powers Non-Executive Decisions Minutes

The minutes of the Emergency Powers Non-Executive Decisions meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 via Remote Access.

Emergency Powers Non-Executive Decisions members and officers present:

Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer
Councillor Lesley McKay, Chair of Audit Committee
Joanne Billington, Head of Governance
Emma Keany, Democratic Services Officer

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

13 Declarations of interest

None.

14 Emergency Powers Provisions for Audit Committee

The Corporate Director Resources (and Section 151 Officer) **agreed** that Emergency Powers Provisions report relating to Audit Committee matters, **be noted**.

15 Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit

The Head of Governance submitted a report on the annual review of the effectiveness of the council's system of internal audit, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

She confirmed that there had been a few changes to the layout and wording but that the substance of the report was similar to the annual review reissued in 2019.

Councillor McKay, the Head of Governance and the Corporate Director Resources discussed the report, including the views shared, electronically, by Councillor Moon regarding the length of the document, abbreviations and duplications. The Head of Governance stated that she had provided

Councillor Moon with a direct response and as there were no significant issues, would revisit them at the next annual review in 2021.

After discussion, the Corporate Director Resources (and Section 151 Officer) **agreed** that the results of the May 2020 review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, **be noted**.

16 Internal Audit Annual Report 2019/20

The Head of Governance submitted a report on the Internal Audit Annual Report which provided information on internal audit work carried out during 2019/20 and enabled a chance to review the progress in relation to risk management activity, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

She confirmed that there had been issues with the completion of the 17 audit reports and subsequently only 8 had been completed. The Head of Governance, however, stated that she was happy that the controls in place were adequate but there needed to be recognition of the fact that coverage had been limited. She planned to look at those reports missed and bring to the next Audit Committee.

Councillor McKay, the Head of Governance and the Corporate Director Resources discussed the report, including the views shared, electronically, by Councillor Moon regarding Fleetwood Ferry. The Head of Governance stated that she had provided Councillor Moon with a direct response regarding his concerns and there was no change to the overall opinion.

There was also discussion around the current progress made at Marine Hall and the possible impact of Covid-19.

After discussion, the Corporate Director Resources (and Section 151 Officer) **agreed** the Internal Audit Annual Report attached at Appendix 1, the Risk Management Progress Report at Appendix 2 and the Strategic Risk Review at Appendix 3, **be noted**.

17 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

The Head of Governance submitted a report on the submitted a report on the draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

She confirmed that the draft statement would be added to the Statement of Accounts and that all key officers had seen and had an opportunity to comment on the document.

Councillor McKay, the Head of Governance and the Corporate Director Resources discussed the report.

After discussion, the Corporate Director Resources (and Section 151 Officer) **agreed** the draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20, which incorporated the council's Code of Corporate Governance, **be formally approved**.

18 Risk Management Policy: Annual Review

The Head of Governance submitted a report on the annual review of the council's risk management policy.

She confirmed that there had been slight amendments to the policy which reflected the changes of directors and Section 151 role.

Councillor McKay, the Head of Governance and the Corporate Director Resources discussed the report.

After discussion, the Corporate Director Resources (and Section 151 Officer) **agreed** the Risk Management Policy attached at Appendix 1 of the report, **be approved**.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.22 pm.

Date of Publication: 29 June 2020