

Audit Committee

This report summarises the items considered by the Audit Committee on 25 February 2016.

Certification of Claims Report

David Johnson, Audit Manager at Grant Thornton, presented the report from the external auditors on their findings from the signing off of the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim 2014/15. He referred to the errors as detailed in Appendix A and noted that although the errors were very small they had to be reported.

The Assistant Director noted that unfortunately there would always be an element of human error, but each year improvements were made, and overall the result was a good one.

Members were content to note the report.

Treasury Management Performance to December 2015

The Principal Accountant (Exchequer) presented the report which reviewed the treasury management activity and performance against Prudential Indicators for the nine months ended 31 December 2015.

She noted an update had been received from Arlington Close, which advised they predicted no interest rate rise until September 2018. During a short discussion the Principal Accountant responded to points of detail and clarified that:

- Point 12 – future reports would include the number of units held in the property fund.
- Point 20 – the sentence should read that the overall estimate for capital expenditure has decreased, and not increased as printed in the agenda.

In response to a query, the Assistant Director explained in more detail the ceiling referred to in point 35, and that it was an ability to borrow funds if needed.

Members were content to note the Treasury Management Activity and position of the individual prudential indicators.

2015/16 SWAP Internal Audit Quarter 3 Update Report

The Assistant Director (South West Audit Partnership – SWAP) presented the report as detailed in the agenda and highlighted some points including:

- The progress of operation audits.
- No special reviews or investigations had been undertaken.
- Updated that an Audit of Property Services, as detailed near the end of appendix B, had now been started.

The Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) also advised that two audits had been removed from the plan:

- Lean Thinking Benefit Realisation – it was no longer felt appropriate to continue with this Audit as the authority was moving towards transformation.

- Leisure Centre / Hub Contract Compliance – as there was no longer a contract with The Hub.

The Assistant Directors noted the training session mentioned at the end of the covering report would be deferred to the next meeting as it was felt it would be more beneficial to do so when looking at the new Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17.

Members were content to note the progress made on the 2015/16 Annual Internal Audit Plan.

Councillor Derek Yeomans
Chairman of Audit Committee
