

Remuneration Panel was in attendance to present the report, and therefore the committee felt it appropriate to agree to the proposal.

RESOLVED to vary the order of the agenda as published to consider item 6d prior to item 6a.

35 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

36 MINUTES

Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee – 20 September 2012

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 20 September 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

37 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE (GA.23 12/13)

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising schedule as set out in report GA.23 12/13 be received and noted.

38 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Leaning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Paper GA.27 12/13 (Remuneration Panel Recommendation) as a member of the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Scheme. The Chairman clarified that this could be considered a blanket interest for all members of the Committee.

39 REMUNERATION PANEL RECCOMENDATIONS (GA.27 12/13)

Mr David Lomas of the Council's Remuneration Panel presented Paper E which set out the conclusions of the Panel to the Committee.

Members discussed the content of the report including travelling costs. It was considered that more work could be undertaken to identify the 'true cost' of travelling in West Lindsey in future years, rather than adopting the HMRC suggested allowance. It was clarified that the basic allowance to be given as a Member of Council will remain at £5100.00 for the ensuing year. Members requested for more consideration to be given to this allowance for future years in line with accrued inflation costs.

In addition, debate took place around the allowances received by Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees, namely the differentiation between Planning and Policy Committee Chairs. Mr Lomas noted this point and assured that this matter and the changes discussed around pensions would be looked at in detail for future years.

Mr Lomas reported that an E-Survey would be carried out in 2013 to allow members to respond independently on remuneration issues.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lomas and his colleagues on the Remuneration Panel for their hard work on the content of the report.

RESOLVED that the recommendation of the independent Remuneration Panel be endorsed and the paper be referred to Council for ratification.

40 QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN (GA.24 12/13)

The Assistant Chief Executive presented Paper B which set out an update position on the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan. He highlighted the salient points for noting including progress on actions around project methodology and risk management and looked at next steps to review progress.

RESOLVED that the current position of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan be noted.

41 QUARTER 3 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (GA.25 12/13)

Lucy Pledge presented Paper C to the Committee. She explained that at the last meeting it was reported that there had been some delay in scheduling audits, but significant progress had been made an Internal Audit were now back on track to complete the plan. Some of the audits undertaken showed limited assurance on risk.

Councillor Brockway raised an issue of about the way in which a governance concern has been handled. The Chairman proposed for the Members of the committee to have a short discussion at the close of the meeting.

The issue of Member training was discussed, and it was noted that the timing prior to a committee meeting was not always convenient for those Members of Council who worked full time.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

42 2011/12 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (GA.26 12/13)

The Financial Services Manager presented the Annual Audit Letter as written. After a brief discussion, Members welcomed it's content.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Annual Audit Letter be noted.

43 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (GA.28 12/13)

The Financial Services Manager presented Paper F to the Committee. It was explained that headline allocations had been received for the Government Settlement Grant, but specific details were not available. The figures within the report to be presented to Council would be amended in line with any financial knowledge that came to light in the interim period.

Changes that were highlighted included varying the permissible term for short term deposits to a one year period and extending the use of the Council's own banker. If any further suitable investment opportunities become available, Mr Stone would bring a further report back to the Committee for approval.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 be noted, and presented to Council for ratification.

44 WORK PLAN (GA.29 12/13)

Members considered their work plan for meetings during the 2012/13 Civic Year.

RESOLVED that the work plan as at 12 December 2012 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.46 pm.

Chairman