

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – 18th July 2019

COUNCILLOR ANDY KAY

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING

Audit & Assurance

The Internal Audit Annual Opinion Report was presented to the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 25 June, along with the Annual Risk Management and Counter Fraud Reports. The details in these reports helped inform the draft 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement (AGS), which the Committee also received prior to its approval. These reports enabled the Committee to be satisfied that the AGS properly reflected the governance and control arrangements in place within the Council during 2018/19. It was subsequently signed by the Leader and Chief Executive.

The 2018/19 Annual Internal Audit Opinion noted that the internal audit work supporting the opinion had been delivered in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Based on the internal audit work carried out during 2018/19 the overall opinion was that the Council had adequate systems of risk management, control and governance in place during the last year, which had been applied to an adequate standard.

The Annual Risk Management Report provided assurance to the Committee that the Council had adequate risk management arrangements in place, which had operated effectively during the previous 12 months.

Finance

Closure of Accounts 2018/19

The accounts for 2018-19 have been closed and the statement of accounts has been prepared and posted on to the Council Website. External audit are now working with the finance team to verify the accounts prior to final sign off.

Governance Services

The team successfully delivered the local elections on 2nd June 2019 and then backed this up with the successful delivery of the European parliamentary elections on 23rd May 2019. The core governance services team was supported by 100's of staff from across the Council and were supported by a wide range of local schools, associations and venues, to deliver effectively across the Borough.

Legal Services

The department continues to undertake a large number of prosecutions reflecting the Council's drive to assure compliance across a range of areas. Over approximately the last 5 years the litigation section of the team has undertaken approximately 75 full prosecutions a year. Last year in addition 1,500 new SJP (Single Justice procedure) prosecutions [mainly for littering offences] were also undertaken.

HR Services

Following two successful Open Evenings we have received 275 applications for Apprenticeships with the Council. This was followed by 167 candidates booking onto our assessment days on 2nd and 3rd July. These days provided a number of activities for candidates to get involved in to giving them opportunity to experience a positive

recruitment process. HR are now working with a number of Managers from across the Council looking at finalising offers to 25 candidates for apprenticeships across many different roles, plus in the forthcoming months we will continue to look at offering additional opportunities as vacancies arise for other successful candidates.