

Minute of Meeting Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 21 September 2020	10:00	Remotely via Microsoft Teams,

Present

Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Jim Sharkey

Chair

Councillor Bill Binks, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning and N Irvine-Brown, Policy Lead, Performance & Quality (both Chief Executive's); M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, and C MacDonald and R Devine, both Senior Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

Also in Attendance

M Ferris, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

1 Accounts Commission - Local Government in Scotland - Overview 2020

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to Audit Scotland's report on behalf of the Accounts Commission.

The report outlined key messages and issues along with the summary position within Renfrewshire Council. The key challenges for local authorities in Scotland were also highlighted in relation to issues such as the increasing demand on services due to demographic and social changes, the increasing strain on public sector budgets, the changing needs of communities and changing workforce. A copy of Audit Scotland's - 'Local Government in Scotland: Overview 2020' was attached as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Binks, seconded by Councillor Begg, moved that the key messages contained in Audit Scotland's - 'Local Government in Scotland: Overview 2020 report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted and that Renfrewshire Council's position in relation to the key messages and recommendations set out in the Audit Scotland report be noted.

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Hood, moved to delete all recommendations and insert "Board rejects the Local Government in Scotland Overview 2020 as inadequate and undemocratic in its failure to address the under-funding crisis".

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Harte, Hood and Sharkey.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Begg, Binks, Burns, Campbell.

3 members having voted for the amendment and 4 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED:

(a) That the key messages contained in Audit Scotland's - 'Local Government in Scotland: Overview 2020 report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;

(b) That Renfrewshire Council's position in relation to the key messages and recommendations set out in the Audit Scotland report be noted.

2 Annual Review of Compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance 2020

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance (the Code) which was based on the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: The Framework which set the standard for local authority governance in the UK and which was revised by CIPFA and Solace in 2016 to ensure it remained fit for purpose.

The Code covered the seven core principles which brought together the main elements of Council business and these were highlighted within the report and evidence of how the Council complied with the updated Code was attached as the appendix to the report. The report also reflected on the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the Council's governance arrangements for 2020.

DECIDED: That the Council's compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance as set out in the appendix to the report be noted.