

AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES 25 FEBRUARY 2021

updated disclosures would be complete on Monday with Ernst & Young able to issue an opinion on the accounts and sign them off.

A Member asked whether it was necessary to have our four largest venues valued every year, especially with the Covid-19 situation this year. Neil Harris responded stating that these four venues were pervasive assets to the running of the Authority and he would find it uncomfortable from an audit perspective if they were not valued yearly. With Covid-19, the valuers looked at the assumptions up to March 2020 and then put in a waiver. The Chairman of the committee pointed out that in paragraph 11 of the report, the valuation of these assets by LVRA's consultants every year along with 25% of other assets in each interim year then all assets in year 5 was compliant of accounting requirements. Neil Young responded that all assets have to be valued over a five-year period at the discretion of the local authority.

A Member expressed concern at the delay in completing the 2019/20 Audit and asked to what extent the delay had been down to the pandemic, the Leisure Services Contract and the going concern judgement and whether any of these issues would extend into the 2020/21 final accounts. Neil Harris responded that the whole of the public sector had been affected by the pandemic and 50% still have not published their 2019/20 final accounts. He believes that the work done on the Leisure Services Contract is complete and can maintain a watching brief, but believes that a similar timetable to last year with an end in November more realistic.

The Chairman informed Members that she would like to include a new recommendation (4), to reflect Members' concerns over the proposed additional audit fees for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 audits.

The Chairman thanked Neil Harris for his work and looked forward to confirmation that the final accounts for 2019/20 have been signed off on Monday.

- (1) the Accounting Policies set out in Appendix A of Paper AUD/117/21;**
- (2) the Draft Closedown Timetable set out in Appendix B of Paper AUD/117/21 was approved;**
- (3) the key judgements and assumptions set out in paragraphs 9 to 11 of Paper AUD/117/21; and**
- (4) with considerable concern the proposed additional audit fees for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 and await the outcome of the ongoing discussions was noted.**

206 RISK REGISTER 2020/21

Paper AUD/116/21

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director who informed Members that this Risk Register was in a new format, with input from Heads of Service and quarterly updates from the Management Team. Overall the register's red issues are reducing and unknown risks will be picked up as the year progresses via the internal process now in place.

The Chairman asked that now the Prime Minister has given a road map out of Covid-19 restrictions whether this had changed any of the risks on the register. The Corporate Director responded stating that the Covid-19 Oversight Group had already started this process. The easing of restrictions would be gradual, therefore the risks remained the same for now and as

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planned. The Chief Executive added that of more significance would be the Chancellors statement on furlough and business rates which may incur more risk for the Authority.

A Member commented that the risk register in its electronic PDF version is difficult to read, especially the colours on the headings and asked if Members could be sent an Excel version. The Corporate Director responded that this would be done and they would look to change the shading of headings to make them easier to read.

- (1) the Corporate Risk Register included at Appendix A and the sub-registers at Appendixes B & C of Paper AUD/116/21 was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 12.30pm and ended at 1.08pm