

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 February 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr J Beesley – Chairman

Cllr L Williams – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr M F Brooke, Cllr M Cox,  
Cllr B Dunlop and Cllr M White

68. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S McCormack

69. Substitute Members

There were no substitutes.

70. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

71. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72. Public Issues

There were no public issues.

73. Relationship between the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Finance providing a description and overview of key statistics and particularly the numbers of properties involved and covered by the two accounts. It was explained that, legally and as recognised by Central Government, BCP Council has only one Housing Revenue Account ('HRA'). However, within the Council, it was a matter of local choice as to how the accounts were administered. The current internal arrangement was that the Poole and the Bournemouth accounts were administered separately. The Committee was also reminded that Christchurch had sold its housing stock in the 1990s and did therefore not have an HRA.

The presentation set out in detail the way in which costs were charged to the HRA in terms of treatment of core services; core-plus services and non-core services. The approach to dealing with external debt, land and property ownership and with sale of Council dwellings was also explained.

It was suggested and agreed that the presentation would be circulated to members of the Committee with a view to it being retained for reference and updating going forward.

The Chairman recorded his thanks to the Head of Finance for an informative presentation.

The Committee noted that that the presentation to the next meeting would be on the subject of 'Sustainable Procurement'.

Other items which would be added to the agenda would include an update on the latest position regarding the Kinson Community Centre; a report on the Whistleblowing, Counter Fraud and Corruption policies and a report on the Annual Evolution of Financial Regulations for 2020-21.

A revised copy of the Committee Forward Plan to reflect these additions would be circulated to members of the Committee after the meeting.

In the meantime, the Chairman reminded Members of his ongoing invitation for them to suggest subjects for future presentation to the Committee. There was also a suggestion, which was supported by the Committee, that Officers explore the potential for a self-assessment of the performance of the Audit and Governance Committee using the CIPFA self-assessment tool. It was noted that this was available on an 'off-the-shelf' basis and so could potentially be used quickly and relatively cheaply. This process could then also be included within the programme of work set out in the Committee's Forward Plan.

The meeting ended at 7.12 pm

CHAIRMAN