

AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2015/16

City Council: 22 June 2015



TAMAR BRIDGE AND TORPOINT FERRY JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTE 38 (13 March 2015)

The Joint Committee received the Audit Arrangements for 2015/16 (previously circulated). The Business Manager highlighted that:

- (i) The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 removed the requirement for joint committees to have their accounts separately prepared and audited;
- (ii) The value of materiality within the two Authorities' accounts at which external auditors took interest was significantly above the Committee's revenue budgets. Anything below £20m was not considered as material to Cornwall's accounts;
- (iii) The Cornwall Council contract with Grant Thornton UK did not provide for non-statutory audits;
- (iv) In view of the above it was proposed that, in future, internal audits took place to replicate the statutory process as far as possible and in order to ensure the provision of a set of accounts for publication with confidence.

In response to Members' questions, the Business Manager confirmed that:

- (i) It was proposed that the current timetable of bringing the draft accounts and final audit to the June 2016 and September 2016 meetings respectively would continue;
- (ii) The current level of internal audit for operational tasks and processes would be maintained;
- (iii) It was anticipated that a Value For Money conclusion would still be included;
- (iv) Once the way forward had been agreed, further scoping work would be undertaken and the fee agreed.

Arising from consideration of the report, it was moved by Councillor Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Austin, and

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COUNCILS OF CORNWALL AND PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCILS:

That the proposed Audit arrangements for 2015/16 as set out below be adopted:

In line with the financial service agreement with Cornwall Council to provide financial support to the Joint Committee, to continue with the production of a final set of accounts encompassing income and expenditure account and balance sheet, which will also allow the inclusion of the Joint Committee's financial results in the statements of the Joint Councils.

In addition, the balances that comprise these statements will then be tested independently by Cornwall Council's internal audit team to provide a level of assurance to the Joint Committee that the statements produced are accurate and represent a true and fair view.

This will not comprise a full audit ensuring compliance with regulatory framework but will be through an increased internal audit engagement, over and above their existing agreement to provide assurance on the Joint Committee's internal control environment.