

Corporate Governance and Standards Committee Report

Report of Head of Executive Head of Governance

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Corporate Governance and Standards Committee – work programme

Recommendation

That the Committee:

1. comment on proposals for it to consider Treasury Management reports
2. consider and approve its work programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

Reason for recommendations:

1. To ensure the Council effectively scrutinises its Treasury Management strategy and policies
2. To allow the Committee to approve its work programme for the next year.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The draft work programme sets out the items to be considered by this Committee over the next year. The report also considers the merits of the Committee being the Council's nominated body responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of its Treasury Management strategy and policies.

2. Draft work programme

- 2.1 The draft work programme for the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. The items to be considered include decisions to be made by the Executive and full Council, with consideration of any comments or recommendation made by this Committee.

3. Treasury Management

- 3.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) code states that local authorities should nominate a responsible body (such as a committee, board or council) or a nominated group of individuals or relevant committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management strategy and policies.

- 3.2 Under our current financial procedure rules, the Council has nominated the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of our Treasury Management strategy and policies.
- 3.3 Recent concerns regarding the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee's work programme led officers to review whether this was the most appropriate committee to consider our Treasury Management strategy and policies. Further to discussions with the Chairmen of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee, the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee and the Lead Councillor for Finance and Asset Management, they agreed the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee may be better placed to consider Treasury Management reports. This was due to both the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee's work programme, and the level of relevant knowledge and expertise of the Committee.
- 3.4 The Treasury Management Panel is a working group, rather than a formally constituted committee, and therefore would not satisfy the CIPFA code in terms of being one of the Council's responsible bodies to ensure effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management strategy and policies.
- 3.5 Both the Treasury Management Panel and the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee were also consulted on the recommendation for Treasury Management items to be considered by the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee, and both agreed this would be a sensible move.

Timetable implications

- 3.6 There are currently three Treasury Management reports, all reviewed by the Treasury Management Panel, considered throughout the municipal year:
1. The Treasury Management Annual Strategy and Plan, currently presented to the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee and Executive in January and approved Budget Council at its budget meeting in February
 2. The Treasury Management Annual Report, currently considered by Executive in June and approved by full Council in July
 3. The Treasury Management mid-year report, currently considered by the Joint Scrutiny Committee and Executive in November and approved by full Council in December.
- 3.7 The Council's timetable of meetings for the 2015-16 municipal year was agreed by full Council at its meeting on 7 October 2014 (see Appendix 2 to this report). At present, the full Council meeting in July (7 July) is before the July meeting of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee (23 July). Officers have advised that the 4 June meeting of the Committee would be too early for the Treasury Management Annual Report to be ready, and so are investigating the possibility of effectively swapping the July Committee and full Council dates.

- 3.8 For the Treasury Management mid-year report, the November meeting of the Committee (26 November) is currently scheduled to meet two days after the Executive (24 November). However, as with the Treasury Annual Report, this will be approved by full Council, and so may negate the need to move the Committee and Executive meetings around.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications

6. Human Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 There is scope within the Constitution for the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee to consider Treasury Management reports, although the financial procedure rules and Article 10 of the Constitution may have to be amended to specifically state this.
- 7.2 Considering the Treasury Management reports would complement the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee's role with regard to the Statement of Accounts and its audit and governance role, particularly as they are a key part of the financial governance framework.

8. Background Papers

- Guildford Borough Council Forward Plan
- Management Team Forward Plan
- Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee, minutes of 5 March 2015.

9. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance and Standards Committee work programme
- Appendix 2 – Current timetable of meetings for Council, Executive, Overview and Scrutiny and Corporate Governance and Standards meetings for 2015-16 municipal year