

Minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee 14 March 2018

Present

John Hughes	Chair of Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Venessa Willms	Board member
Dame Kathryn August	Board member
James Aston	Co-opted member
Helen Jesson	Co-opted member

Also in attendance

Amanda Spielman	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Board member
Matthew Coffey	Chief Operating Officer
Louise Grainger	Director, Finance, Planning and Commercial
Simon Helps	National Audit Office
Stephen Morffew	National Audit Office
Jane Forbes	Internal Audit - Pricewaterhousecoopers
Naomi Stauber	Head of Corporate Governance
Saba Pooni	Audit and Governance Manager

1. Chairman's introduction, declarations of interest, minutes and matters arising

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees, including new members Kathryn August, James Aston and Helen Jesson.
- 1.2 The minutes were agreed and members noted minor amendments to the action log.

2. Report from Chair and Members

- 2.1 John Hughes reported that he shadowed a prison inspection in London and Venessa Willms reported that she attended a children's home inspection in Southampton. She also attended a South East region remit meeting.

- 2.2 The new members gave a short introduction about their previous experience.

Audit update

3. Progress against audit recommendations

- 3.1 Louise Grainger reported the progress against audit recommendations at the end of February 2018.

3b. Internal audit progress report

- 3.2 Jane Forbes presented an update on the audits completed since the last Committee.

3c. External audit report

- 3.3 Simon Helps presented an interim update on the 2017-18 financial statement audit.
- 3.4 Members noted an update on the National Audit Office (NAO) study to assess whether Ofsted's approach to inspecting schools offers value for money. The NAO has completed its fieldwork for this study and shared the emerging findings with Ofsted. The NAO expected to publish its report in May 2018.
- 3.5 Simon Helps provided an overview of other value for money studies in the education sector including studies on apprenticeships and special educational needs.

Risk update

4. Issued internal audit reports

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- 4.1 Jane Forbes reported that PwC has issued one internal audit report since the last committee meeting.

4b. Risk Report

- 4.2 Louise Grainger presented the strategic risk report which was reviewed by the Executive Board on 27 February 2018.
- 4.3 The Chair recommended a review and renewal of the strategic risks in light of the new strategy. **Action 2: Louise Grainger to lead a review of the strategic risks.**

4c. Finance Report

4.4 Louise Grainger presented the financial position at the end of period 10 and advised that the departmental expenditure limits for 2017-18 have been agreed by Parliament.

4d. 2018-19 Budget

4.5 Louise Grainger presented the budget report. Members noted in 2018-19 Ofsted's total funding is £153.4m (£129.3m core funding and £24.1m income from fees and other government departments).

4.6 Members noted that an update on the 2018-19 budget had been circulated to all staff.

5. Approach to Assurance

5.1 Louise Grainger outlined a proposed approach that would provide greater assurance to the committee, which included discussion and challenge at the committee.

5.2 Members supported this approach.

6. Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan 2018-19

6.1 Jane Forbes presented the draft internal audit plan that had been reviewed by the Executive Board. Subject to minor amendment the committee recommended that the plan should be approved by the Accounting Officer.

Action 3: The Accounting Officer to approve the internal audit plan.

7. Any other business

None.

The next Audit Committee meeting will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 20 June 2018 in Clive House room 403a.

End of meeting