



It was reported that although the Council had produced its draft parent financial statements in line with statutory deadlines, however it was essential that the Council put plans in place to ensure that the required information was received from the subsidiary company in a timely fashion in future.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- In order to meet financial deadlines, the Council's assets were individually valued by a professional valuer as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. An analysis by the auditors of the movement in property indices in the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> March indicated that property values could have increased by potentially £471k. The Executive Head of Finance decided not to make this adjustment as the use of an index was only a representation of the movement in the property market as a whole and not based on a review of individual Council assets. As the adjustment was below the auditors £900,000 materiality threshold they were content for the adjustment not to be made.
- The Council's Information Governance Manager was running mandatory training for all Council staff on the Council's duty to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations and consideration was being given to the role of a Data Protection Officer.
- It was considered important that all members were familiar with the new data protection regulations and it was agreed that data protection training for members should be provided.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i. The Chairman of the Committee approves the Financial Statements on behalf of the Council.
- ii. The Executive Head of Finance's Letter of Representation to the Auditors be approved.

## **11AS Disqualification Criteria for Local Authority Members**

The Committee considered a report seeking feedback on Government proposals to update the criteria that barred individuals from becoming councillors.

The current criteria for disqualifying individuals from standing for election at a local level are set out in Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 9 of Schedule 54B of the Local Democracy and Economic Development and Construction Act and Section 21 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. Individuals can currently only be barred from standing for, or holding, office if they have within five years of the day of election, or since their election, been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offences and have received a sentence of imprisonment, suspended or not, for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine.

The Government considers that these disqualification criteria no longer reflect the nature of sentencing options that can be conferred upon an individual to protect the public and address unlawful or unacceptable behaviour. The consultation proposes that, in addition to the original disqualification criteria, individuals who had been subject to the sex offender notification requirements or who were subject to certain anti-social behaviour sanctions should also be barred from standing for election or holding public office at a local level.

The Committee acknowledged that the proposals were well intentioned however concern was expressed that they could be construed as an infringement of people's privacy particularly in cases where convictions were considered to be spent and only needed to be

disclosed on a need to know basis. Furthermore a number of the penalties being used to tackle anti-social behaviour were based on new legislation and people would not be familiar with them so would not be aware of their potential impacts further down the line.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i. the Head of Legal Services meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to draft a response to the consultation.
- ii. the draft response be circulated to the Committee for comment before its submission.

**Chairman**