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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
AUDIT COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
22 July 2021 (7.00 - 7.55 pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS:

Conservative Group	Roger Ramsey, Judith Holt and Robby Misir (In place of Viddy Persaud)
Residents' Group	Gerry O'Sullivan
Upminster & Cranham Residents' Group	Gillian Ford
North Havering Residents Group	Martin Goode (in the Chair)

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Viddy Persaud .

Through the Chairman, announcements were made regarding emergency evacuation arrangements and the decision making process followed by the Committee.

73 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th April 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74 ASSURANCE PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee was presented with the assurance progress report during the period from 1st April to 30th June 2021.

Members noted that 3 permanent positions had been filled in the Counter Fraud Service team. Members noted that 9 housing referrals had been made and 1 property had been recovered and the payroll report was being drafted. Members were made aware that fixed term staff would be fully trained and experienced and Havering do not compare their statistics to other London Boroughs.

The Committee **noted** the report.

75 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The Committee was presented with an update on the most recent changes made to procurement.

Members noted that new governance had been initiated following a new gateway review group and new contract procedure rules had been drafted. A new intranet page had also been created to provide staff with guidance on the changes. Members noted the procurement team had reduced its interim staff from 5 members to 1 and the contracts register had been updated and was live. It was

explained to the Committee that there was a 'No PO No Pay' policy in place and Members were assured that suppliers were notified of this.

Committee members requested for a further report on the oracle fusion software to be brought back to the Committee and a future meeting.

The Committee **noted** the report.

76 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

The Committee was presented with the Annual Treasury Management report for the 2020/21 financial year.

Members noted the investment income exceed the budget by £0.5million and the interest payable outturn was £8.304million compared to the budget of £12.695million. The Committee noted the internal cash figure was wrong and should read £188million not £109million and the capital borrowing increase under point 4.2 should be £19million not £28million. It was explained to Members that the HRA and cash reserves were used and that would need to be repaid and the reserves were replenished with long-term borrowing.

The Committee **noted** the report and the performance against the targets for the 2020/21 financial year.

77 **AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee **noted** and **agreed** the 2020/21 Annual report.

Chairman