DEVON AUDIT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

7 March 2018

<u>Present</u>

<u>Devon County Council</u>

Councillors J Mathews and C Slade

<u>Other Council Representatives</u>

Councillor Dr John Mahony, Plymouth City Council
Councillor Philip Hackett, Torridge District Council
Councillor Alan Tyerman, Torbay Council
Councillor James O'Dwyer, Torbay Council

<u>Also in Attendance</u>

Councillor B Evans, Mid Devon District Council
Councillor R Radford, Mid Devon District Council

<u>Apologies</u>

Councillors B Boundy (Torridge District Council) and S Leaves (Plymouth City Council)

*   **17**   **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017 be signed as a correct record.

*   **18**   **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

*   **19**   **Devon Audit Partnership Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of the Devon Audit Partnership (CT/18/15) on the status of the Partnership, current issues and performance of Devon Audit Partnership during the period November 2017 to February 2018 and some of the key achievements during this period.

Members noted:

- While due consideration had been given to a proposed change in the name of the Partnership from April 2018 to reflect the wider role of the function, the Head of the Devon Audit Partnership advised maintaining the established DAP name and working to develop further the brand.

- The additional expertise and capacity that the Counter Fraud Team from Plymouth would bring to the Partnership.

- The work undertaken with Audit Together which has been recognised nationally, where the Partnership are finalists in the Public Finance innovation awards in the sector of Internal Audit. The Committee thanked and congratulated staff for this accolade.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mathews, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hackett and

RESOLVED

   (a) that the Committee notes the current status of the Partnership and current issues.

   (b) that the Committee note the transfer of the Counter Fraud Team from Plymouth to the Partnership.

   (c) that members note the continued high level of customer satisfaction achieved by the Partnership.

* **20**   **Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Month 9**

The Committee received the Report of the County Treasurer (CT/18/16) monitoring the Budget of the Partnership at month 9, indicating a potential for a slight underspend at the year end.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hackett, **SECONDED** by Councillor Slade and

RESOLVED

that the Committee note the projected outturn, variances and reason.

* **21**   **Devon Audit Partnership Budget 2018 /19**

The Committee considered the Report of the Head of Partnership (CT/18/17) on setting the budget for 2018/19. The Head of the Partnership advised that Torbay Council had further reduced their contribution by £20k over 2017/18 contributions, which would result in a subsequent reduction in internal audit days that the Partnership will be able to provide to Torbay and a potential risk to that authority.

Members noted:

   •   The County Council's purchase of a risk management service from the Partnership.

   •   Expected higher levels of work to the Partnership through EU grant audit work.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hackett, **SECONDED** by Councillor Slade and

RESOLVED

that the Committee agrees the proposed budget for 2018/19 and the areas of uncertainty within the budgeted income figure.

* **22**   **Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme**

The Committee considered the Report of the Head of Partnership (CT/18/18) on the Quality Improvement Action Plan for Devon Audit Partnership which sets out the areas for advancement in the next 12 months.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hackett, **SECONDED** by Councillor O'Dwyer and

RESOLVED

That the Committee notes the current Quality Improvement Action Plan, the challenges for the future and the action being taken by management to react to these challenges.

*DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT

The Meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 11.21 am