

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

1st May 2018

AGENDA ITEM 7.1 and 7.2 – APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE PROVISIONS and PROCEDURES FOR AUDIT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As is normal at this time of year, Council must consider the acceptability of the Annual financial Governance Provisions under which the Council operates, and provided it is so satisfied, to consider the annual accounts and the procedures for audit.

2. REPORT

2.1 The Responsible Financial Officer will introduce orally the Governance Provisions and seek the Council's approval of them. He will then explain the proposed procedures and timescales for audit and for publicising the relevant documents.

2.2 For the first time, smaller authorities, such as Pickmere, whose annual income and annual expenditure are each less than £25,000, and who meet the following criteria, are not required to submit their accounts for external audit:

- The authority has been in existence since before 1st April 2014
- In relation to 2016-7 the external auditor has not:
 - Issued a public interest report in respect of the authority
 - Made a statutory recommendation to the authority
 - Issued an advisory notice under the Audit and Accountability Act
 - Commenced judicial review procedures under the Act
 - Made an application under the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful under the Act.

2.3 The Council may choose to be externally audited (i.e. more precisely be subject to a Limited Assurance Review) if they wish, but this brings a fee of £200 plus VAT. It is necessary for a council to resolve at this point which of these routes it wishes to take.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Annual Governance Statement be approved and the Chair and Clerk be authorised to sign the return.

3.2 That the Council certifies itself as exempt from limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the RFO and the Chair be authorised to sign and submit the relevant certificate of exemption.

3.3 That Council notes the provisions for internal audit of the annual figures and compliance with the requirements for publicity etc.