



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

Julie Muscroft

Governance and Commissioning

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Decision Summary

Committee:
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date:

Committee Clerk:

TEL:

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND

FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2023

Leigh Webb

01484 221000

Chair

Councillor Yusra Hussain

Councillors Attended

Councillor Harry McCarthy

Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds

Councillor John Taylor

Attendees

Julie Muscroft – Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Martin Dearnley – Head of Risk

Chris Jones – Independent person

Helen O’Sullivan – Acting General Manager, Business Assurance

Aaron Gouldman – Grant Thornton

Ex-Officio Members

Councillor Paul Davies

Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

Councillor Jo Lawson

Apologies

Councillor Kath Pinnock

1 Membership of the Committee

To receive any apologies for absence, or details of substitutions to the Committee membership.

Councillor John Taylor was appointed as interim chair of the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Kath Pinnock.

2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 February 2023. The minutes/notes of the meeting held on 10 March 2023 are attached for information

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2023 be approved as a correct record. The Committee noted the minutes/notes of the meeting held on 10th March 2023.

3 Declarations of Interest

Committee Members will be asked to advise if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion or vote on an item, or any other interests.

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the agenda which are to be discussed in private, by virtue of the reports containing information which falls within a category of exempt information as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was noted that Agenda item 10 would be considered in private session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

There were no deputations or petitions received.

6 Audit Progress

To receive a verbal update.

Contact: Grant Thornton, External Auditor

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

7 Quarterly Report of Internal Audit Q4 2022/23 January 2023 to March 2023

To receive information about internal audit work in quarter 4 of 2022/23.

Contact: Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk & Internal Audit

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Quarter 4 2022-23 report be noted.

8 Annual Report of Internal Audit 2022/23 & Issues for 2023/24

To consider the report.

Contact: Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk & Internal Audit

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee is content with the (i) effectiveness of its Internal Audit function, noting its conformance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Code of Ethics (ii) effectiveness of the Council's overall system of internal control (iii) effectiveness of the broader control environment, risk management and governance arrangements of the Council (subject to the observations contained within the report). (iv) finding from internal audit activity in 2022/23 (v) the proposed Audit Plans for 2023/24,
 2. That authority be given for the Head of Internal Audit to vary the proposed audit plan as is considered necessary, subject to reporting back as a part of the quarterly review process,
 3. That the Chair of the Committee liaises with the Head of Risk regarding the number of follow up audits and limited assurances.
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9 Exclusion of the Public

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

RESOLVED: That acting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically state in the undermentioned minute.

10 Quarterly Report of Internal Audit Q4 2022/23 January 2023 to March 2023

This report is recommended for consideration in private because the information contained in it is exempt information within part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.

Exempt appendix in relation to Agenda Item 7.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the exempt information, which was an appendix to Agenda item 7.
