

# HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

5 MARCH 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr DS Cope - Chair  
Cllr A Pendlebury – Vice-Chair  
Cllr REH Flemming, Cllr E Hollick, Cllr MJ Surtees, Cllr BE Sutton and  
Cllr P Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Chris Brown (Azets), Julie Kenny, Sarah Knowles (Mazars), Helen Parks (Azets), Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson, Ashley Wilson and Ashley Stewart (Mazars)

### 391. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Allen, S Gibbens, Lambert and Webber-Jones.

### 392. **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Flemming and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January be confirmed as a correct record.

### 393. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared at this meeting.

### 394. **2025/26 Internal Audit plan and Charter**

Members were provided with the proposed Internal Audit Operational Plan for 2025/26, the 2025/26 – 2027/28 updated Internal Audit Strategy, and the Internal Audit Charter.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that the proposed audits for shared service partnerships would be carried out on behalf of all partners and shared with their own audit committees.

It was proposed by Councillor Pendlebury, seconded by Councillor Flemming and

RESOLVED –

- (i) That members approved the Internal Audit Operational Plan for 2025/26;
- (ii) That members approved the 2025/26 -2027/28 updated Internal Audit Strategy; and

- (iii) That members approved the Internal Audit Charter.

**395. Counter Fraud Framework**

Members were presented with the draft Counter Fraud Framework document which formed part of the Counter Fraud strategy work.

As part of the discussions it was confirmed that the objective was to further protect the council and this Framework would strengthen arrangements already in place.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Flemming, and

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

**396. Approach to re-building audit assurance**

Members were presented with an update on the planned approach to building external audit assurance that set out the first stages of the recovery plan.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- This gave the level of assurance needed in order to move forward;
- This work would be completed in chunks within a four year period to give enough assurance of the material areas;
- Each piece of work would be reported to Audit committee on completion;
- At this point there would be no additional costs incurred above that in the report, but further costs may be incurred later;
- The first year of the merged council's under local government reorganisation would require additional costs to merge accounts, which would be further complicated if there were still outstanding qualified or disclaim opinions.

It was moved by Councillor Pendlebury, seconded by Councillor Hollick, and

RESOLVED – the update be noted.

**397. External Auditors Annual report - year ended 31 March 2024**

Members were presented with an overview of Azets Auditor's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

It was moved by Councillor Flemming, seconded by Councillor Hollick, and

RESOLVED – that members noted the report and the actions in place to address the recommendations made.

**398. Items to be referred to council**

There were no items to be referred to council.

(The Meeting closed at 7.11 pm)

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CHAIR