

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

4 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr DS Cope - Chair
Cllr R Webber-Jones – Vice-Chair
Cllr CM Allen, Cllr REH Flemming, Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr E Hollick,
Cllr C Lambert, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr MJ Surtees, Cllr BE Sutton and
Cllr P Williams

Also in attendance:

Officers in attendance: Chris Brown (Azets), Julie Kenny, Helen Parks (Azets),
Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson, Ashley Wilson and Alexander Campbell

317. Minutes of previous meeting

It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Flemming and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

318. Declarations of interest

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

319. External Audit draft Audit Completion Report year ended 31 March 2025 and Letter of Representation

Members were provided with an overview of Azets' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025 that covered their opinion on the financial statements including key findings and risk testing, Value For Money commentary on financial sustainability, and Governance and improving the economy for efficiency and effectiveness. Concerns were also raised around capacity within the finance team to respond effectively to external audit processes.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that:

- The capacity issue had been raised and was being considered by management;
- HBBC's position regarding the accounts would not affect the Community Governance review for a new Hinckley Town Council and any transfer of budgets and services that would be required;
- To get a clean opinion HBBC would need 3 years of clean balance sheets and the council's position was currently where the external auditors confirmed they should be at this juncture.

Members acknowledged that a great deal of work had gone into this and asked about Local Government Reorganisation and how it would be affected if HBBC didn't get a clean audit by the time the authority didn't exist. The external auditor

confirmed that they hadn't yet been advised of the answer to this should the situation arise.

It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Pendlebury and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report and actions in place to address the recommendations made be noted;
- (ii) The positive movement since the last report that had found significant weakness in the Value for Money assessment be noted.

320. Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2024-25

Members were presented with an update on the financial statements for 2024/2025 and Annual Governance Statement that were currently being finalised.

It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025 subject to completion of the final element of external audit process be noted and approved for publication; and
- (ii) Delegated authority be given to the Chair of Audit Committee to approve the final 2024/25 Statement of Accounts once the audit is completed.

321. Forvis Mazars - Draft Internal Audit Annual Report for 2024-25

Members were presented with the Internal Audit 2024/25 annual draft report. and the audit findings in respect of each review, together with recommendations for action and the management responses were set out in the detailed report.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that the outstanding draft report would be completed once management responses had been completed.

It was moved by Councillor Lambert, seconded by Councillor Gibbens and

RESOLVED the report be noted.

322. Service Level Budget Monitoring 2025/2026 Internal Audit Final Report

Members were presented with the Service Level budget Monitoring report for 2025/2026 that assessed the design and effectiveness of the control framework for service level budget monitoring within HBBC.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that:

- Refresher training was in the process of being organised along with training for budget holders on the budget process.

It was moved by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

323. Internal Audit Progress Report

Members were presented with an update on the current position of the delivery of the 2025/26 internal audit plan.

Officers confirmed this would be delivered in line with reporting cycles for 2025/26.

It was proposed by Councillor Webber-Jones, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

324. Audit Committee Forward Plan

Members were updated that currently work was being undertaken by the Scrutiny Commission on action planning and best practice guidance to ensure that the work of both Audit Committee and the Scrutiny Commission were aligned. Coming out of this work there may be an item to propose to bring to committee, which would need allocating to a meeting at an appropriate time.

Members noted the forward plan.

(The Meeting closed at 7.44 pm)

CHAIR