

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26 JULY 2023 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr DS Cope - Chair
Cllr A Pendlebury – Vice-Chair
Cllr CM Allen (for Cllr MJ Surtees), Cllr REH Flemming, Cllr C Harris,
Cllr E Hollick, Cllr C Lambert, Cllr BR Walker, Cllr R Webber-Jones and
Cllr P Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Malcolm Evans, Rosemary Leach, Sally O'Hanlon, John Palmer, Sharon Stacey, Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson and Ashley Wilson

64. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Sutton and Councillor Surtees with the substitution of Councillor C Allen authorised in accordance with council procedure rule 10.

65. **Minutes of previous meeting**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

66. **Declarations of interest**

There were no interests declared.

67. **Internal Audit Annual Report 2021/22**

Members were provided with the annual report incorporating the internal audit opinion covering the work undertaken on the internal audit plan for 2021/22.

In response to a question from members around assurances that the authority was doing everything possible to ensure it was in the most robust position, it was confirmed that management actions were being implemented over the next few months and progress would be reported back to committee.

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

RESOLVED - the report be noted.

68. **Leicestershire Revenue & Benefits Partnership Council Tax & Business Rates 2021/22**

Members were provided with a summary of the results of the internal audit work carried out on behalf of the Leicestershire Revenues and Benefits Partnership.

All recommendations had been received by management for information in terms of assurances throughout the year.

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

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

69. **Internal Audit plan progress report 2022/23**

Members were provided with a summary of the 2022/23 internal audit plan.

In response to a question from members around the amount of days allocated for this audit, it was confirmed that if additional work was required there was flexibility in the plan and this would be managed accordingly.

It was proposed by Councillor Hollick, seconded by Councillor C Allen, and

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

70. **Commercial Asset Management Final Report 2022/23**

Members received a summary of the commercial asset management internal audit report for 2022/23.

In a response to a question from members around the council being resilient to the commercial environment in terms of the way it managed KPI's moving forward, it was confirmed that this was covered as part of the audit and debt management had been rated a medium level priority.

Members also questioned the timescales around quarterly checks not being completed until June 2024, it was confirmed that it would take time to introduce the new software and train up the appropriate staff.

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

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

71. **Carbon Neutral Action Plan July 2023**

Members received a summary of the internal audit work which formed part of the 2021/22 internal audit plan carried out on the carbon neutral action plan.

Responding to a question from members around the bio diversity strategy it was confirmed that staff would be refreshing the climate change strategy to include the bio diversity priorities following on from the emergency declaration that was agreed at council.

Officers confirmed that the climate change work achieved to date was an excellent achievement, included bringing in approximately £4.5m in external funding and was disappointed that the audit didn't reflect this.

Members thanked the team for this work and officers confirmed that it had been the whole council that had worked on this and it had been a real culture shift

through every single service, with people thinking how they could contribute to becoming carbon neutral.

It was confirmed that the audit would be discussed at the next climate change working party.

It was proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Councillor Hollick, and

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

72. External Auditor Transition and Delivery Letter

Members were provided with an update regarding the work of the external auditors.

The report was noted.

73. Matters from which the public may be excluded

On the motion of Councillor Webber-Jones seconded by Councillor Allen, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.

74. Leicestershire ICT Partnership Cyber Security 2022/23 Internal Audit Report

Members were provided with the internal audit report on the cyber security for Leicestershire ICT Partnership for 2022/23.

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

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.40 pm)

CHAIR