

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2025 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr DS Cope - Chair
Cllr A Pendlebury – Vice-Chair
Cllr CM Allen, Cllr SM Gibbens, Cllr E Hollick, Cllr MJ Surtees, Cllr BE Sutton
and Cllr P Williams

Also in attendance:

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

324. **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Flemming, Webber-Jones and Lambert.

325. **Minutes of previous meeting**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November be confirmed as a correct record.

326. **Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared at this meeting.

327. **Audit completion report 2023/24**

Members received a covering report from the Head of Finance and the first Audit completion report from Azets the new external auditors.

In response to questions from members around the Government reform review, officers confirmed that they were engaging with Ministers to talk about the reform of the local audit system that included consultation on all proposals.

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

RESOLVED – that members note the report and actions in place to address the value for money conclusions and outcomes from the recent Corporate Peer Challenge.

328. **Audit Committee corporate risk register review 2024/25**

Members were provided with an update to the Corporate Risk Register that had addressed actions from the Audit Committee Action Plan as well as findings from the Corporate Peer Challenge held in December 2024.

In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that:

- The Corporate Risk Register was regularly reviewed, updated and published on a quarterly basis;
- The devolution and Local Government Reorganisation risk listed on the register was as at November 2024 and had already been updated since the white paper had been published.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) That members reviewed and considered the content of the report;
- (ii) That the Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Framework be endorsed.

329. **Audit Committee review of terms of reference**

Members received this report updating the current terms of reference for this committee based on the most recent CIPFA guidance for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Allen, seconded by Councillor Surtees, and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The proposed updated Terms of Reference which had been drafted in response to the action plan and findings from the LGA Peer Challenge were approved
- (ii) The revised Terms of Reference were also recommended to Council for inclusion in the constitution.

330. **Sickness management final internal audit report**

Members were presented with the final sickness management internal audit report for 2024/25.

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

RESOLVED – the report be approved.

331. **Treasury Management 2024/2025 - Internal audit final report**

Members received the Treasury management final internal audit report for 2024/25.

Members noted that there were areas identified where there was scope to improve the control environment.

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

RESOLVED – the report be approved.

332. Internal Audit annual report 2023/24

Members were presented with the internal audit annual report that summarised the internal audit work undertaken by Forvis Mazars in 2023/24, the scope and outcome of the work completed and included the annual statement on internal controls assurance.

In response to a question from members, officers confirmed that the Leisure centre audit had been deferred and would be carried out in March 2024.

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

RESOLVED – the report be approved.

333. Internal Audit progress report January 2025

Members were presented with the internal audit progress report for January 2025 which showed the current position of delivery of the 2024/25 internal audit plan. Members noted that the capital programme audit had been delayed but should be completed by the end of March 2025.

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

RESOLVED – the report be approved.

334. Audit Committee annual report to council 2023/24

Members were presented with the annual report to council for 2023/24. This report would now be presented to the next council meeting.

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

RESOLVED – the report be approved.

335. Statement of Accounts 2023/24 update

Members were presented with the financial statements for 2023/24 and Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 with a brief explanation of some of the key year on year changes in the primary statement of the accounts. These financial statements were subject to external audit with a completion date by the end of February 2025. An error of omission of a paragraph on page 261 of the pack was brought to the attention of the Audit Committee for inclusion in the approved version of the Annual Governance Statement under the heading, “How this issue is being addressed”.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) The following paragraph be included on page 261 of the pack under the section, “How this issue is being addressed” – During 2023/24 the committee had not been receiving information relating to the above responsibilities, and although the Finance and Performance Scrutiny see risks as part of its role, the coverage is not compensating for the required arrangements that need to be in place for the Audit Committee to ensure that assurance is being gained on the points above.
- (ii) The report be noted and the financial statements for 2023/24 and Annual Governance statement for 2023/24 approved for publication, subject to completion of the external audit process,
- (iii) The Chair given delegated authority to approve the final 2023/24 Statement of Accounts once the audit has been completed if there were any further amendments or audit requirements needed.

336. Items to be referred to council

There were no additional items to be referred to Council.

(The Meeting closed at 8.00 pm)

CHAIR