

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1 OCTOBER 2025 AT 6.30 PM

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

Also in attendance: Councillor KWP Lynch

Officers in attendance: Julie Kenny, Sarah Knowles (Mazars), Madeline Shellard, Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson, Ashley Wilson, Helen Parks (Azets) and Mark Kinsella (Grant Thornton)

188. Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lambert, Surtees and C Allen, with the following substitutions authorised in accordance with procedure rule 10:

Councillor R Allen for Councillor Surtees.

189. Minutes of previous meeting

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2025
be confirmed as a correct record.

190. Declarations of interest

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

191. Fraud Risk Assessment - Strategy Action Plan

A presentation was given to Members on the Counter Fraud Strategy overview by Grant Thornton that included a phased implementation summary, areas covered by HBBC's Fraud Risk Register strategy, and what work they had covered so far.

In response to a question from members around the current indication of fraud within the council, officers confirmed that the fraud case previously reported to the committee was still being investigated by the Police and would be reported back to this committee on the conclusion of their findings.

In response to a question from members around reflections on the current levels of risk, Grant Thornton colleagues confirmed that procurement had been raised in a number of councils where there were some ongoing investigations. In addition, officers were seeing more AI fraud in the charity sector and in the NHS. They

confirmed that there was usually well developed controls and structures in local authorities that were relatively tight and so there was a low level risk.

Members noted the presentation.

192. Internal Audit Final Report - Homelessness 2024/25

Members were presented with the Homelessness internal audit final report for 2024/2025 which had reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the key controls in place in relation to Homelessness.

The audit had reviewed the arrangements in place to reduce the level of homelessness and use of temporary accommodation.

In response to a question from members in terms of resources that the council had in order to deliver the assurance and challenges, officers confirmed that demand continued to grow year on year, dealing with the most vulnerable people in society with complex needs. Resourcing was the biggest risk to the authority, and management had taken on board the recommendations and had already implemented 3 out of the 5 recommendations, and the other two were on schedule for completion.

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

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

193. Internal Audit Final Report - Fire Safety 2024/25

Members were presented with the Fire Safety internal audit report for 2024/2025 that had assessed the design and effectiveness of the control framework in relation to fire safety.

The audit had reviewed the controls in place to ensure compliance with the relevant fire safety legislation for commercial premises and officers had confirmed that all the agreed actions had been implemented.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor R Allen and

RESOLVED - the report be noted.

194. Internal Audit Progress Report

Members were presented with an update on the current position of the delivery of the internal audit plan dated 1 October 2025 that set out work completed and work still to do.

It was noted that the Capital Programme and IT Vulnerability Management reports had been issued in draft, and were awaiting management responses.

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

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

195. Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2024/25

Members were presented with the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2024/2025 and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025 that were currently subject to external audit.

It was agreed that an informal session would be arranged for members to go through this report with officers in detail.

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

RESOLVED – the draft Financial Statements and Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025 be approved.

196. Audit Committee Annual Self-Assessment - Update proposal 2025

Members agreed that an informal session to go through the annual self-assessment for 2025 would be useful.

Members agreed to consider training and the next phase of the action plan in addition to the annual report to Council.

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

RESOLVED – that the content of the report be considered along with all actions required to complete the next phase of the action plan.

(The Meeting closed at 8.02 pm)

CHAIR