



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25th OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT: Councillors B Price (Vice-Chair), B Clarke, S Daniels, S Doyle,  
and R Pritchard

Officers Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Joanne Goodfellow (Assistant Director Finance), Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Alice Poulton (Future High Streets Fund Project Officer), Leanne Costello (Democratic and Executive Support Officer) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

Visitors Laurelin Griffiths (Grant Thornton External Auditors)

## **30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Maycock and P Thurgood.

Apologies were received from the Audit Manager, Andrew Wood in relation to agenda item 5, Andrew Barratt was in attendance on their behalf.

## **31 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

## **32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of Interest.

## **33 UPDATE FROM EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

The Committee received a verbal update.

The signing off a accounts has been delayed as assurances from the Auditor of the Pension Fund are not expected until the end of November however there are currently no concerns.

**34 INTERNAL AUDIT QUARTER 2 PROGRESS REPORT & EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN**

Report of the Audit Manager provided an update on internal audit's progress report for the period to 30th September 2023. In addition, updated on internal audit's progress in implementing the External Quality Assessment Action Plan for 2023/24.

**Resolved that the Committee**

1. Considered the two reports:

Internal Audit's Quarterly Report (Appendix 1)

External Quality Assessment Action Plan (Appendix 2)

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by S Doyle Councillor)*

**35 REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2022/3**

Report of the Interim Executive Director Finance reviewed the Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2022/23 following Council on 19th September 2023.

**Resolved that the Committee**

1. Considered the Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2022/23, as detailed at Annex 1, and highlighted any proposed changes for recommendation to Cabinet.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

**36 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TIMETABLE**

The Committee reviewed the timetable.

**37 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the

grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

**38 FHSF RISK OCTOBER 23**

Report of the Assistant Director-Growth & Regeneration updated on FHSF Risks.

**Resolved that the Committee:**

1. Endorsed the report
2. Endorsed the risk register

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

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Chair