



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25th SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillor C Adams (Chair), Councillors M Couchman, P Turner and A Wells (Vice-Chair)

Officers Joanne Goodfellow (Interim Executive Director Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer), Andrew Wood (Audit Manager), Nicola Hesketh (Monitoring Officer) and Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer)

Guests Bethany Hincks (Azets)

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bain, S Doyle and J Wadrup.

13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor A Wells and seconded by Councillor P Turner).

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

15 UPDATE FROM EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The external auditor from Azets gave a verbal update on interim work carried out for 2023/24. The update highlighted that the audit was progressing well, and they had received timely response to all enquiries. The audit was on track for completion for the aspiration date of 30th September and that there had been no findings or adjustments required to date.

Pension assurance from Pension Fund Auditor were outstanding however the were in communication around these.

16 INTERNAL AUDIT QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 1 2024/25

Report of the Audit Manager provided Audit & Governance Committee with internal audit's progress report for period to 30th June 2024.

Resolved that the Committee:

Noted Internal Audit's Quarterly Progress Report (Appendix 1), which includes results up to 30th June 2024.

(Moved by Councillor P Turner and seconded by Councillor A Wells')

17 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2023/24

Report of the Executive Director Finance reviewed the Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2023/24 following Council on 10th September 2024.

Resolved that the Committee:

Considered the Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2023/24, as detailed at Annex 1, and highlighted any proposed changes for recommendation to Cabinet

(Moved by Councillor A Wells and seconded by Councillor M Couchman)

18 FINANCIAL WAIVERS TO 30TH JUNE 2024

Report of the Executive Director Finance noted the waivers to the Council's procurement processes as set out in Financial Guidance for the period 1st April to 30th June 2024, for the reasons as set out, and to advise if any further information is required.

Resolved that the Committee:

Noted the waivers approved to the procurement processes as set out in the Council's Financial Guidance.

(Moved by Councillor M Couchman and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

19 RISK MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE 2024/25

Report of the Assistant Director, Finance report on the Risk Management process and progress for Quarter 1 of the 2024/25 financial year.

Resolved that the Committee:

Endorsed the Corporate Risk Register

(Moved by Councillor P Turner and seconded by Councillor M Couchman)

For – 3
Against – 1
Abstentions - 0

20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2023/24

Report of the Assistant Director, People advised the committee of the contents of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review letter for the year ended 31st March 2024 in relation to complaints against Tamworth Borough Council.

Resolved that the Committee:

Endorsed the contents of the 2023/24 Ombudsman Annual Review Letter, and the summary of complaints, decisions and compliance contained within it.

(Moved by Councillor A Wells and seconded by Councillor M Couchman)

21 REGULATORY INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 ANNUAL UPDATE

Report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships. The Council's Code of Practice for carrying out surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) specifies that annual reports will be taken to Audit & Governance Committee to demonstrate to elected members that the Council is complying with its own Code of Practice when using RIPA

Resolved that the Committee:

Endorsed the RIPA monitoring report for 2023/24

(Moved by Councillor A Wells and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

22 MODERN SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2023/24

Report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships. To endorse the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2023/24.

Resolved that the committee:

1. Endorsed the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2023/24 signed by the Chief Executive
2. Approved the publication of statement in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015

(Moved by councillor M Couchman seconded by Councillor P Turner)

23 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

The Committee reviewed the timetable and highlighted that flooding is a major concern and they would like to continue to monitor this risk as part of their work streams.

The Committee identified comments, compliments and complaints as an area they would like to add to the work plan.

Chair