

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Held in The Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve St, Market
Harborough

On Wednesday 7th September 2022

Commencing at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillors: Dr Bremner (Chairman), Dunton, Mahal, Nunn, Mrs Simpson and Mrs
Wood

Officers: N. Kwasa, C. Mason, C. Pattinson

Internal Auditor (North Northamptonshire Council): R. Ashley-Caunt

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the officers present. Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

Apologies were received from Councillor Golding who was substituted by Councillor Mahal and Councillor Knowles who was substituted by Councillor Mrs Simpson. Apologies were also received from Councillor Hollick.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 28th June 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. ANNUAL OMBUDSMAN REPORT

The Interim Monitoring Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to inform members of the content of the annual review letter issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (“the Ombudsman”) for the municipal year 2021 – 2022 and to update members on the letter received in respect of 2020 – 2021.

Members had the opportunity to question the officers and the Committee asked for clarification regarding when the joint complaint handling code (between the Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman) is likely to be launched. The Interim Monitoring Officer AGREED to take this away and provide further information to the Committee.

Following the discussion it was,

RESOLVED that the annual review letters issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for 2020- 2021 and 2021 – 2022, be noted.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Chief Internal Auditor presented the report, the purpose of which was to update Members on progress against the 2022/23 internal audit plan, key findings of audits completed and status of outstanding recommendations.

She noted that there were two further audits, namely performance management and strategic partnering and shared services which had been finalised and issued since the agenda for this meeting had been published and that these would be included in the report to the next Audit and Standards Committee meeting. She also noted that Appendix B contained details of the overdue recommendations and that the revised dates for those two recommendations were end of September and therefore she hoped to provide an updated position to the Committee at the next meeting.

Members had the opportunity to question the officers and following the discussion, it was;

RESOLVED that the Committee considered the Internal Audit Progress Report (Appendix A) and Overdue Recommendations (Appendix B) and provided comment.

6. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

The Chief Internal Auditor presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek annual approval of the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy.

Members had the opportunity to question the officers and the Committee requested that the Charter be shared with all Members and reinforced with those Members of the Committee who were unable to attend the meeting. The Interim Deputy Chief Executive AGREED to circulate this to all Members following the meeting.

Following the discussion, it was;

RESOLVED that the Committee reviews and approves the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy.

7. Q1 CORPORATE RISK AND OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer presented the report on behalf of the Interim Chief Executive. The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with information on the Council's Corporate Risks and Opportunities at the end of Quarter 1 of the 2022/23 year.

Members had the opportunity to question the officers and the Committee asked for clarification on whether it has been reported to Members that the Council is no longer on a green energy tariff. The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer AGREED that this would be captured in the Q2 Performance Monitoring Report to Cabinet in November 2022.

Following the discussion, it was;

RESOLVED that the items contained within the Council's Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register (attached at Appendix A to this report) be noted.

8. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

The Meeting closed at 19.03