

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,  
KIDDERMINSTER

25 MAY 2022 (6PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: R H Coleman (Chairman), A Coleman, B S Dawes,  
N J Desmond, P Dyke, S Miah and C Rogers.

**Observers**

Observed remotely: Councillors: H E Dyke and M Rayner.

**AUD.01 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:  
P W M Young (Vice-Chairman) and A Totty.

**AUD.02 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor A Coleman was appointed as a substitute for Councillor P Young.  
Councillor S Miah was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A Totty.

**AUD.03 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**AUD.04 Minutes**

**Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.**

**AUD.05 Sector update**

The Committee received a verbal sector update from the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton (GT).

Councillor N Desmond joined the meeting at this point (6.04pm).

The Director GT announced a revised running order for the agenda in that item 7 would be taken before item 6.

The Director GT gave a brief summary of the audit process that was completed in the summer of 2021. He drew members' attention to the range of different recommendations that can be raised by the auditors, namely; statutory, key and improvement. He said that overall, the audit had concluded that the

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arrangements within the authority were satisfactory and no significant or key recommendations for improvement had been raised. He added that a number of areas had been identified for improvement, which are the lowest recommendation level.

The Director GT answered questions on the update from members.

**Agreed: The update be noted.**

### **AUD.06 Annual Audit Report (VFM Report)**

The Committee received the Annual Audit report for 2020/2021 from GT.

The Engagement Lead presented the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that they had not identified any significant Value For Money (VFM) weaknesses, but had identified six opportunities for improvement under the financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness criteria as set out on page 32 of the report.

The Committee discussed the findings and representatives from GT answered questions on the report from members.

The Head of Resources and S.151 Officer advised that the new Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) had taken on board the recommendations. She added that CLT were in the process of undertaking a review of the corporate risk register and this would be presented at a future meeting of the Audit Committee.

The Chairman thanked GT for their reports and advised that he had spoken to the Head of Resources and S.151 Officer regarding member training and this was in hand.

**Agreed: The report be noted.**

### **AUD.07 Annual Audit Plan**

The Committee received the Annual Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2022 from GT.

The Key Audit Partner GT presented the report and outlined the key points. She advised members that the VFM risk assessment had not yet being completed and an update would be included in the next progress report to the Committee.

**Agreed: The plan be noted.**

### **AUD.08 Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter ended 31 March 2022**

The Committee received a report from the Audit Manager which detailed the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 31 March 2022.

The Audit Manager presented the report and appendix and outlined the key

issues. She took members through each page of the report in detail offering opportunity for questions on each section. The Chairman thanked the Audit Manager and her team for the report.

**Agreed: The Committee considered and noted the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 31 March 2022 as detailed in the Appendix to the report.**

**AUD.09 Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 Action Plan Update**

The Committee received the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 Action Plan update from the Head of Resources and S.151 Officer.

The Head of Resources and S.151 Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues. Members were advised that the report set out the current position in relation to the action plan that was developed to address the issues identified in 2020-21. She added that this was the final update on the action plan and was happy to report that many of the actions had been completed.

**Agreed: The Committee noted the progress against the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2020-21 as attached at Appendix 1 of the report.**

**AUD.10 Annual Governance Statement 2021-22**

To Committee received a report from the Head of Resources and S.151 Officer which sought approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22.

The Head of Resources and S.151 Officer presented the report outlined the key issues. She advised that the format of the action plan had not changed from the previous year.

She explained that to continue to strengthen the Council's governance arrangements, the plan detailed the significant new and continuing governance issues identified and actions had been put in place against each issue for progression in 2022-23.

**Agreed: The Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement attached at Appendix 1 of the report.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.03pm.