

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,  
KIDDERMINSTER

6TH JULY 2022 (6PM)

---

**Present:**

Councillors: R H Coleman (Chairman), P W M Young (Vice-Chairman),  
B S Dawes, N J Desmond, P Dyke and A Totty.

**Observers**

Councillor: A Coleman.

Observed remotely: Councillors: G Ballinger and M Rayner.

**AUD.11 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: C Rogers.

**AUD.12 Appointment of Substitutes**

No Substitutes were appointed.

**AUD.13 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**AUD.14 Minutes**

**Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.**

**AUD.15 Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2021/22**

The Committee received a report from the Audit Manager and the Section 151 Officer which informed members of the Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report for 2021/22.

The Audit Manager presented the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that work had been undertaken in accordance with the approved Internal Audit plan for 2021/22 and reports had been reported to the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and the Audit Committee with the audit opinion for 2021/22 referenced on page 15 of the report.

She drew members' attention to the statement of organisational independence as set out on page 16 of the report and assured members of the independence

of the internal audit activity. Members were given the opportunity for questions on the report.

**Agreed: The Audit Committee APPROVED the Internal Audit Annual Assurance report for 2021/22 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.**

**AUD.16 Report on Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Resources which presented the Accounting Policies for use in preparing the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2021-22 for approval, the accounting estimates and assumptions relied upon in the preparation of the statutory accounts, and detailed the main characteristics of the methods and models used to make the accounting estimates and the risks related to them.

The Head of Resources presented the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that there were no significant changes to the Accounting Policies to report. She further explained that following a consultation exercise, the new standard to assist the timeliness of audit opinions within the local authority sector, as the majority (91%) of local bodies missed the statutory deadline of 30 September 2021 for publication of their audited 2020/21 accounts, had been deferred until 2023-2024.

Members were given the opportunity for questions on the report.

**Agreed: The Audit Committee:**

- i) approved the Accounting Policies to be used in preparing the Council's 2021-22 Statement of Accounts;**
- ii) noted the management arrangements to identify and evaluate accounting estimates.**

**AUD.17 Risk Management – Corporate Risk Register**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Resources which informed members of the current Corporate Risk Register and the Budget Risk Matrix.

The Head of Resources presented the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that the Risk Register was reviewed and updated annually by members of the CLT with input from all Service Managers as appropriate. She explained that the scoring of the identified risks in the refreshed document had been changed from Likelihood 6 and Impact 4, to both being out of 5.

The Head of Resources said that in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio, she led the ongoing review of the Register and the document would continue to evolve.

In response to a member question regarding the risk *Poor member behaviour undermines Council's reputation and performance*. The Head of Resources advised that the risk had been brought forward by the Solicitor to the Council and she would seek further clarification on what constitutes poor member

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

behaviour from the Solicitor to the Council.

**Agreed: The Audit Committee CONSIDERED AND NOTED the Corporate Risk Register 2022-23 and the associated mitigating actions and the 2022-25 Budget Risk Matrix.**

The Chairman thanked the Head of Resources and the Audit Manager for their reports.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.21pm.