

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER

22 MARCH 2023 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: R H Coleman (Chairman), P W M Young (Vice-Chairman),
B Brookes, N J Desmond, P Dyke, D Ross, A Totty, L Whitehouse.

Observers:

Councillor: A Coleman

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

AUD.35 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: B S Dawes.

AUD.36 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor D Ross was appointed as a substitute for Councillor B S Dawes.

AUD.37 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

AUD.38 Minutes

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor L Whitehouse entered the meeting at 6.02pm.

AUD.39 Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan 2023-24

The Committee considered a report on the Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan 2023-24 from s151 Officer on the audit plan for the Council, which has been prepared in accordance with the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013, updated 2016 amended 2017.

The Audit Manager presented the report and drew particular attention to paragraphs 4.7 to 4.11 of the report, where there had been some changes in the available audit days for 2023/4.

Agenda Item No. 4

Due to his late arrival, the Chairman asked Councillor L Whitehouse if he had any interests to declare on any of the items on the agenda. Councillor Whitehouse confirmed that he had no declarations of interest to make.

The s151 Officer and the Audit Manager were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions on the Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan 2023-24.

Agreed: The Audit Committee DECIDE that:

1.1 The Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan 2023~24, attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

1.2 To authorise the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Audit Manager to make any in-year amendments to the plan considering developments arising during the year as described in paragraph 3.6 of the report.

AUD.40 Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter Ended 31 December 2022

The Committee received a report from the Audit Manager who presented the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 31 December 2022, the third quarter of the plan.

The Audit Manager led members through the report and outlined the key points and drew Members attention to the work in progress and performance against plan.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions on the report.

Agreed: The Audit Committee considered and agreed the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 31st December 2022 as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

AUD.41 Risk Management – Corporate Risk Register Action Plan Monitoring Report

The Committee considered a report on the current Corporate Risk Register and the Budget Risk Matrix, which informed members of the latest Risk Management Strategy, including the updated Risk Management Strategy.

The Head of Resources presented the report and was able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions.

Agreed: The Audit Committee considered and noted the Corporate Risk Register and the associated mitigating actions as at 31st January 2023 and the 2023-26 Budget Risk Matrix.

Recommend to Cabinet: The Audit Committee recommend to Cabinet that the revised Risk Management Strategy is adopted.

AUD.42 Press Involvement

There were no further items for audit that might require publicity.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank all Officers, on behalf of committee members, for all their hard work over the past 4 years and noted that Wyre Forest District Council are in the Top Ten Councils getting audited accounts finalised.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.35pm.