

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER

24 MAY 2023 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: N J Desmond (Chairman), A Sutton (Vice-Chairman), J F Byng, L Carroll, G Connolly, K Gale, M Rayner and P W M Young.

AUD.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Griffiths.

AUD.02 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor L Carroll was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Griffiths.

AUD.03 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

AUD.04 Minutes

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

AUD.05 External Audit - Sector Update

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

The Director GT explained the current situation and outlined the key points. She advised members that Wyre Forest District Council were one of the 12% of authorities to have met the deadline of September 2022 to submit their annual accounts.

The Director GT answered questions on the update from members.

AUD.06 External Audit - Informing the Risk Assessment 2022-23

The Committee received the report on Informing the Risk Assessment 2022-23 from the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton (GT), who highlighted key areas particularly for the benefit of new members to the Committee.

There were no further questions.

Agreed: The report be noted.

AUD. 07 External Audit – WFDC Audit Plan 2022-23

The Committee received the Annual Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2023 from GT.

The Director GT presented the report and highlighted the key areas, including three significant risks as detailed on pages 51-52 of the agenda.

The opportunity was offered to members to ask questions, to which the Director GT gave verbal responses.

Agreed: The report be noted.

AUD. 08 Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter ended 31st March 2023

The Committee received a report from the Audit Manager, which detailed the Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter ended 31st March 2023.

The Audit Manager presented the report and outlined the key issues, offering further explanation of certain details on pages 72-78 of the agenda.

The Head of Resources & s151 Officer and Audit Manager answered questions from members.

Agreed: The report be noted.

AUD. 09 Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2022-23

The Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2022-23, which had been consolidated from previous monthly reports presented to the committee.

The Audit Manager presented the report and outlined the key issues.

Members were invited to ask questions and the Audit Manager was able to provide verbal responses.

Agreed: The Committee approved the Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2022-23 as attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

AUD. 10 Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 – Action Plan Progress report

The Committee received the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 – Action Plan Progress report from the Head of Resources & s151 Officer.

The Head of Resources & s151 Officer presented the report and outlined key issues. She explained the slides sent to members the previous day were shared to give further background. Members were advised that the report set out the current position in relation to the Action Plan, which was developed to address the issues identified within 2021-22, and the Head of Resources & s151 Officer stated that all actions set out for 2022-23 had been achieved.

The Head of Resources & s151 Officer was able to provide members with

verbal responses to their questions.

Agreed: The Audit Committee noted the progress against the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2021-22 as attached at Appendix 1.

AUD. 11 Annual Governance Statement

The committee received a report on the Annual Governance Statement, which has been produced following completion of the annual review of the Council's governance arrangements and systems of internal control providing a review of performance against the Governance Framework to members.

The Head of Resources and s151 Officer presented the report and she explained that she was the author, but it had been produced in collaboration with the Corporate Leadership Team.

The opportunity was offered to members to ask questions, to which the Head of Resources and s151 Officer responded.

Action: The committee noted the draft version of the Council's 2022-23 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as attached at Appendix 1

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