

AUDIT COMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA

For a meeting to be held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth on Thursday, 27 July 2023 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee:-

Councillors:

Tony Humphreys (Chair)

Lisa Hudson

Khalid Hussain

Raj Khuroya

Jonathan Solomons

Ruth Clark (Vice-Chair)

Andrea Fraser

Ciaran Reed

Rue Grewal

*Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
19 July 2023*

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public on agenda items at the Audit Committee meetings. Details of the procedure are provided below:

For those wishing to speak:

Members of the public are entitled to register and identify which item(s) they wish to speak on from the published agenda for the meeting. Those who wish to register to speak are asked to register on the night of the meeting from 7pm. Please note that contributions will be limited to one person speaking for and one against each item for not more than three minutes.

In the event of registering your interest to speak on an agenda item but not taking up that right because the item is deferred, you will be given the right to speak on that item at the next meeting of the Committee.

Those wishing to observe the meeting are requested to arrive from 7pm.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 any matters considered under Part I business only of the meeting may be filmed, recorded, photographed, broadcast or reported via social media by any person.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Legislation and the laws of libel and defamation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 5
- 14)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 28 March 2023 and the Special Audit Committee meeting held on 30 May 2023.

3. NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

Items of other business notified under Council Procedure Rule 30 to be announced, together with special circumstances that justify their consideration as a matter of urgency. The Chair to rule on the admission of such items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

5. UPDATE FROM EY (EXTERNAL AUDITORS) ON AUDITS

To receive a verbal update from the external auditors.

6. ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2023

(Pages
15 - 20)

This report informs members of the work of the Fraud Section for the financial year 2022 to date and provides updates on progress and developments.

Recommendation:

That Members note the report.

7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS UPDATE

(Pages
21 - 24)

This report sets out the latest position for external audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. It also provides an update on the transition to new external auditors for 2023/24 onwards.

Recommendation:

Note the progress and latest timetable for completion of the external audit of the statement of accounts for 2019/20 onwards

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

(Pages
25 - 40)

This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23. This report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).

During 2022/23 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council February 2022)
- A mid-year review (December Audit Committee)
- An annual review following the end of the year describing activity compared to the strategy, (this report)

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report provides details of the year end position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by the Audit Committee. Following scrutiny by the Audit Committee, the report will be presented to Full Council in October.

Recommendation:

That the Committee notes the Treasury Management Annual Report.

- 9. SIAS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23** (Pages 41 - 54)

To receive the SIAS Annual Report for 2022/23.

Recommendation:

To note the report.

- 10. TRDC SIAS PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST THE 2023/24 AUDIT PLAN** (Pages 55 - 98)

This report details:

- a) Progress made by the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) in delivering the Council's annual audit plan for 2023/24 as at 14 July 2023.
- b) Proposed amendments to the approved 2023/24 Annual Audit Plan.
- c) Implementation status of all previously agreed audit recommendations from 2019/20 onwards.
- d) An update on performance management information as at 14 July 2023.

Recommendation:

- Note the Internal Audit Progress Report for the period to 14 July 2023
- Approve amendments to the Audit Plan as at 14 July 2023
- Agree changes to the implementation dates for seven audit recommendations (paragraph 2.5) for the reasons set out in Appendices 3 to 6
- Agree removal of implemented audit recommendations (Appendices 3 to 6)

- 11. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY RISK REPORT** (Pages 99 - 104)

This report advises the Committee on the latest position in respect of the evaluation of financial risks facing the Council for discussion and any recommendations or comments they wish to make.

Recommendation:

That the Committee review the risk register and make any comments it wishes to make against individual risks.

- 12. WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 105 -

To receive the Committees work programme.

Recommendation:

To note the work programme and make any comments.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS agreed under item 3

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

If any confidential business is approved under item 3, it will also be necessary to specify the class of exempt or confidential information in the additional item(s) and a resolution to be passed in the following terms

“that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the respective paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS agreed under item 3

Livestreaming

To watch the meeting remotely please use the livestream details below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzQ3ZjhmZjYtOGU4NS00MmJmLTNmYmUtYTVkMjdINzc3OTdi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%2258420664-1284-4d81-9225-35da8165ae7a%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%2258c99d6e-8c11-4f06-9519-c296e92897fc%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at
committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk