

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD AT CIVIC SUITE 2,
BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON
WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

K J Loydall Chair



Meeting ID: 2715

COUNCILLORS

S S Athwal
G A Boulter
C S Gore
S Z Haq
I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer
K Robson Democratic & Electoral Services Officer
C Warren Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

R Anderson Grant Thornton UK LLP
R Deo 360 Assurance
Cllr P Joshi Attending remotely

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Kaufman.

Councillor P Joshi attended the meeting remotely.

14. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

Councillor S S Athwal substituted for Councillor J Kaufman.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 July 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

17. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no Action List arising from the previous meeting.

18. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

19. VALUE FOR MONEY DELAY LETTER - OWBC 2023/24

The Committee gave consideration to the Value For Money Delay Letter – OWBC 2023 / 2024 (as set out on page 6 of the agenda reports pack), which presented a Letter of the Director of Grant Thornton.

Councillor G A Boulter requested that the reasons given by the External Auditor as to why the Value for Money arrangements were not completed by 30 September 2024 be specifically minuted, namely the sector-wide difficulties facing the audit industry in terms of limited personnel resourcing and additional regulations impacting on workloads.

Councillor G A Boulter drew the Committee's attention the perceived hypocritical position of previous criticism levelled towards the Council in relation to having an insufficient number of internal auditors to complete the internal audit work and the current position of there now being a similar deficiency in external auditors to complete their audit work.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the Value For Money Delay Letter be considered and noted.

In accordance with Rule 6.3 of Part 4 of the Constitution, the Chair moved for the order of business to be altered and taken in the order as reflected in the minutes.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The order of business be altered, accordingly.

20. EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (OCTOBER 2024) (URGENT ITEM)

Under section 100B(4)(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, by reason of special circumstance, in that an additional item of business needed to be considered before the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

The Chair was of this opinion in that this urgent item of business was to be considered at this meeting due to the time-sensitive need to provide Members with a necessary update at this meeting so that Members were able to make a fully informed decision at the next meeting in relation to the sign-off and approval of relevant accounts.

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 2 - 15 of the agenda update) which presented the External Audit Progress Report for October 2024.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and Internal Audit Progress Report (October 2024) (as set out at Appendix 1) be considered and noted.

21. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (OCTOBER 2024)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 7-29 of the agenda reports pack) which presented the Internal Audit Progress Report for October 2024.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and Internal Audit Progress Report (October 2024) (as set out at Appendix 1) be considered and noted.

22. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE (Q1 2024/25)

The Committee gave consideration to the report and appendix (as set out at pages 30-38 of the agenda reports pack) which presented the Strategic Risk Register Update for quarter 1 2024/25.

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The content of the report and Strategic Risk register Update (Q1 2024/2025) (as set out at Appendix 1) be considered and noted.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.51 pm