



HILLINGDON
LONDON

A

Audit Committee

Members of the Committee

John Cheshire (Chairman)
Councillor Richard Lewis
Councillor Naser Abby
Councillor Tony Burles
Councillor Reeta Chamdal
Councillor Nick Denys

Date: **TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2023**

Time: **5.10 PM**

Venue: **COMMITTEE ROOM 5
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH
STREET, UXBRIDGE**

Meeting Details: Members of the Public and Media are welcome to attend this meeting

This Agenda is available online at:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk or use a smart phone camera and scan the code below:



Published: Monday 23 January 2023

Contact: Anisha Teji
Tel: 01895 277655
Email: ateji@hillingdon.gov.uk

Putting our residents first

Useful information for residents and visitors

Travel and parking

Bus routes 427, U1, U3, U4 and U7 all stop at the Civic Centre. Uxbridge underground station, with the Piccadilly and Metropolitan lines, is a short walk away. Limited parking is available at the Civic Centre. For details on availability and how to book a parking space, please contact Democratic Services.

Please enter via main reception and visit the security desk to sign-in and collect a visitors pass. You will then be directed to the Committee Room.

Accessibility

For accessibility options regarding this agenda please contact Democratic Services. For those hard of hearing an Induction Loop System is available for use in the various meeting rooms.

Attending, reporting and filming of meetings

For the public part of this meeting, residents and the media are welcomed to attend, and if they wish, report on it, broadcast, record or film proceedings as long as it does not disrupt proceedings. It is recommended to give advance notice to ensure any particular requirements can be met. The Council will provide a seating area for residents/public, an area for the media and high speed WiFi access to all attending. The officer shown on the front of this agenda should be contacted for further information and will be available at the meeting to assist if required. Kindly ensure all mobile or similar devices on silent mode.

Please note that the Council may also record or film this meeting and publish this online.

Emergency procedures

If there is a FIRE, you will hear a continuous alarm. Please follow the signs to the nearest FIRE EXIT and assemble on the Civic Centre forecourt. Lifts must not be used unless instructed by a Fire Marshal or Security Officer.

In the event of a SECURITY INCIDENT, follow instructions issued via the tannoy, a Fire Marshal or a Security Officer. Those unable to evacuate using the stairs, should make their way to the signed refuge locations.



Terms of Reference

The Constitution defines the terms of reference for the Audit Committee as:

Introduction

The Audit Committee's role will be to:

- Review and monitor the Council's audit, governance, risk management framework and the associated control environment, as an independent assurance mechanism;
- Review and monitor the Council's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Council's exposure to risk and/or weakens the control environment;
- Oversee the financial reporting process of the Statement of Accounts.

Decisions in respect of strategy, policy and service delivery or improvement are reserved to the Cabinet or delegated to Officers.

Internal Audit

1. Review and approve (but not direct) the Internal Audit Strategy to ensure that it meets the Council's overall strategic direction.
2. Review, approve and monitor (but not direct) Internal Audit's planned programme of work, paying particular attention to whether there is sufficient and appropriate coverage.
3. Through quarterly Internal Audit summary reports of work done, monitor progress against the Internal Audit Plan and assess whether adequate skills and resources are available to provide an effective Internal Audit function. Monitor the main Internal Audit recommendations and consider whether management responses to the recommendations raised are appropriate, with due regard to risk, materiality and coverage.
4. Make recommendations to the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services on any changes to the Council's Internal Audit Strategy and Internal Audit Plans.
5. Review the Annual Internal Audit Report and Opinion Statement and the level of assurance this provides over the Council's corporate governance arrangements, risk management framework and system of internal controls.
6. Consider reports dealing with the activity, management and performance of Internal Audit.
7. Following a request to the Corporate Director of Finance, and in consultation with the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services, to request work from Internal Audit.

External Audit

8. Receive and consider the External Auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.
9. Monitor management action in response to issues raised by External Audit.
10. Receive and consider specific reports as agreed with the External Auditor.
11. Comment on the scope and depth of External Audit work and ensure that it gives value for money, making any recommendations to the Corporate Director of Finance.
12. Be consulted by the Corporate Director of Finance over the appointment of the Council's External Auditor.
13. Following a request to the Corporate Director of Finance, and in consultation with the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services, to commission work from External Audit.
14. Monitor arrangements for ensuring effective liaison between Internal Audit and External Audit, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance.

Governance Framework

15. Maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules and financial regulations and where necessary bring proposals to the Leader of the Council or the Cabinet for their development.
16. Review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Director, any Council body or external assurance providers including Inspection agencies.
17. Monitor and review, but not direct, the authority's risk management arrangements, including regularly reviewing the Corporate Risk Register and seeking assurances that appropriate action is being taken on managing risks.
18. Review and monitor Council strategy and policies on anti-fraud and anti-corruption including the 'Raising Concerns at Work' policy, making any recommendations on changes to the relevant Corporate Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
19. Oversee the production of the authority's Annual Governance Statement and recommend its adoption.
20. Review the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and make recommendations to the Corporate Director of Finance on suggested actions to improve alignment with best practice.
21. Where requested by the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services or Corporate Director of Finance, provide recommendations on the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

Accounts

22. Review and approve the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from financial statements or from the external auditor that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.
23. Consider the External Auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the external audit of the accounts.

Review and reporting

24. Undertake an annual independent review of the Audit Committee's effectiveness and submit an annual report to Council on the activity of the Audit Committee.

Agenda

PART I

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of interest | |
| 3 | To confirm that all items marked Part I will be considered in Public and that any items marked Part II will be considered in Private | |
| 4 | Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2022 | 1 - 4 |
| 5 | External Audit Update of the 2021/22 Statement Of Accounts | 5 - 6 |
| 6 | Internal Audit Progress Report Quarter 3 2022/23 (incl. the Quarter 1 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan) | 7 - 22 |
| 7 | CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees | 23 - 30 |
| 8 | 2022/23 Quarters 2 and 3 Corporate Risk Register | 31 - 50 |
| 9 | 2022/23 Quarter 3 Counter Fraud Progress Report | 51 - 66 |
| 10 | Audit Committee Forward Programme | 67 - 68 |