

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors A. Mansfield (Chairman), M. Huckerby, P. Hudson, Z. Krupski, S. Sankey and M. Slater

Officers Present:

Lloyd Haynes (Chief Financial s151 Officer), Thomas Deery (Head of Regeneration and Development) and Daniel Caulkett (Democratic Services Officer)

Also Present:

Tracy Barnard-Ghaut and Ruby Deo (360 Assurance)

An apology for absence was received from: Councillor T. Hadley

At the commencement of the meeting, all present observed a minutes' silence in memory of Councillor Michael Ackroyd who had passed away on 21st June 2024.

58/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

59/24 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

60/24 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public submitted.

61/24 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions from members of the Committee submitted.

62/24 **PUBLIC MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Public Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th March 2024 be approved by the Committee and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A. Mansfield Councillor M. Huckerby Councillor P. Hudson Councillor S. Sankey Councillor M. Slater		Councillor Z. Krupski

63/24 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Resolved:

That Councillor Z. Krupski be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A. Mansfield Councillor M. Huckerby Councillor Z. Krupski Councillor M. Slater		Councillor P. Hudson Councillor S. Sankey

64/24 **INTERNAL AUDIT OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Head of Regeneration and Development provided members with an update in relation to the 2022/23 Homelessness and 2023/24 Stronger Towns Fund outstanding actions.

An opportunity for questions followed.

65/24 **WORK PLAN (INC. TRAINING PLAN) 2024-25**

The Chairman of the Committee presented the 2024/25 Work Plan which included details on Committee training for the ensuing year.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

66/24 **HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION REPORT 2023/24**

The representatives of 360 Assurance provided a short presentation on the annual report of Head of Internal Audit Opinion 2023/24 to East Staffordshire Borough Council summarising the activities of Internal Audit for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards required that the Head of Internal Audit provided a written report to those charged with governance, to support the Annual Governance Statement.

Members considered the opinion, together with management assurances, its own knowledge of the organisation and assurances received throughout the year from other review bodies when producing its Annual Governance Statement. A summary of the work the internal audit performed and delivered against the plan was provided in the report.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

67/24 **INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024/25**

The representatives of 360 Assurance provided a short presentation on the Internal Audit Plan 2024/25.

An opportunity for questions followed.

Resolved:

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A. Mansfield Councillor M. Huckerby Councillor P. Hudson Councillor Z. Krupski Councillor S. Sankey Councillor M. Slater		

68/24 **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2023/24**

The Chief Financial s151 Officer presented the Annual Treasury Management providing a review of treasury activities during the year against the approved Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS).

An opportunity for questions followed.

Resolved:

Members reviewed the Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24 as set out in the Report, and recommended it to Full Council.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A. Mansfield Councillor M. Huckerby Councillor P. Hudson Councillor Z. Krupski Councillor S. Sankey Councillor M. Slater		

69/24 **CORPORATE & STRATEGIC RISKS REPORT 2023/24 – QUARTER 4**

The Chief Financial s151 Officer provided a short presentation on the Corporate and Strategic risks facing East Staffordshire Borough Council as at the end of Quarter 4 of 2023/24.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

70/24 **PRE-AUDIT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24**

The Chief Financial s151 Officer provided members with an oral update on the current position of the Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts 2023/24 and confirmed the Finance team were working to ensure the accounts were uploaded to the website by the end of June 2024. These will be circulated to members outside of the meeting once available.

It was noted that the Post-Audit accounts are currently scheduled to be presented to September's meeting. In advance of that a Zoom training session will be scheduled during August 2024 which will provide members with an overview of the structure of the accounts and areas that they may want to focus their questions / scrutiny on, and will also provide members with the opportunity to raise any questions they may have in relation to the pre-audit accounts.

An opportunity for questions followed.

71/24 **REPORTING OF WRITE OFFS 2023/24 – QUARTER 4**

The Chairman informed members upon advice from the Monitoring Officer, due to the pre-election period, this item would be deferred for discussion until the following meeting.

72/24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee is 25th September 2024.

73/24 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda.

REPORTING OF LIMITED ASSURANCE AUDIT REPORTS

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A. Mansfield Councillor M. Huckerby Councillor P. Hudson Councillor Z. Krupski Councillor S. Sankey Councillor M. Slater		