

AUDIT COMMITTEE
26/02/2025 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors Al-Hamdani, Arnott, Aslam, Davis,
S. Hussain, Rustidge, Sykes and Wilkinson

Independent Chair: Grenville Page

Also in Attendance:

Steve Hughes- Assistant Director of Strategy and Performance

Chris Kelsall- Assistant Director of Finance

John Miller-Head of Audit and Counter Fraud

James Postle- Finance Manager

Lee Walsh- Assistant Director of Finance

Victoria Gallacher-Head of Insurance and Information
Governance

Yogita Das-Patel Mazars LLP -External Auditors

David Watson Mazars LLP- External Auditors

Durga Paul- Constitutional Services

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chowhan.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no Public Questions for this meeting to consider.

5 **2023/24 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Committee heard that the Council's draft Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 was published on the Council's website on 7th June 2024 along with the Notice of Public Inspection. As part of the audit process a number of adjustments to disclosures have been identified and the draft Statement of Accounts has been amended to reflect these. However, the adjustments have not changed significantly from the draft accounts presented to Audit Committee on 27 June 2024.

The adjustments are detailed in the Audit Completion Report and a revised set of accounts is attached for approval. The Management Letter of Representation for the 2023/24 Accounts has been provided for the the Audit Committee to note.

RESOLVED that, Members of the Audit Committee approve the Council's draft Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 and note Management Letter of Representation.

6 **EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORTS**

Members of the Audit Committee heard from External Auditors on the Audit Completion Report. The purpose of this document

is to summarise audit conclusions upon completion of the report. The Auditors identified significant audit risks, and other key judgement areas, which were outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum, presented to the Audit Committee in July, and this remains unchanged. The Committee heard a summary of the significant findings, internal control conclusions and received a summary of misstatements.

Members also received the Auditor's Annual Report which summarised audit of the financial statements, commentary on VFM arrangements, other reporting responsibilities and audit fees and other services.

Members questioned the measures that are put in place to ensure long term sustainability in the Value for Money strategy. Officers explained that the strategy goes to the Governance Scrutiny Board and is subject to scrutiny and oversight from the Committee. Officers noted that it is important that the work of the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committees complement each other, and work is not duplicated.

RESOLVED that, that Audit Committee note the content of and approve the External Auditors Reports.

The meeting started at 5.00pm and ended at 5.35pm