



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, LE15 6HP on Tuesday, 27th June, 2023 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor K Payne (Chair) Councillor R Ross (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor A MacCartney Councillor T Smith  
Councillor L Stephenson Councillor H Edwards

**ABSENT:** Councillor R Powell

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director for Resources  
Rachel Ashley-Caunt Chief Internal Auditor  
Andrew Merry Head of Finance  
Paul Harvey Grant Thornton  
Andrew Merry Head of Finance  
David Ebbage Democratic Services Officer  
Penny Sharp Strategic Director of Places

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor K Corby  
Councillor A Johnson Portfolio Holder

## 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors R Powell and S Lambert. Councillor H Edwards attended the meeting as the representative for Councillor S Lambert.

## 2 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 21 March 2023.

It was moved by Councillor K Payne and seconded that the minutes of the 21 March meeting be approved.

## RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the meetings held on 21 March 2023 be **APPROVED**.

## 3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the Municipal Year 2023-24.

Councillor L Stephenson proposed, and this was seconded, that Councillor R Ramsay be Vice-Chairman to the Audit and Risk Committee. There were no other nominations. Upon being put to the vote this was unanimously carried.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That Councillor R Ramsay be **APPOINTED** Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee for the municipal year 2023-24.

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **5 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions deputations or questions had been received.

## **6 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No questions with notice from Members had been received.

## **7 NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motion had been received.

## **8 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 21/22 AND 22/23**

Report No.92/2023 was introduced by Andrew Merry, Head of Finance.

The report updated the committee on the latest position on the statutory Statement of Accounts (SoA) 2021/22 following the delays in finalising the external audit. It confirmed the position of the Councils draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 and the next steps required to take this from a draft document to finalising and finally it outlined the process for the Annual Governance Statement which forms part of the Statement of Accounts documents once considered and approved by this Committee.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the process for the draft 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and external audit.
- b) **NOTED** the progress update on the 2021/22 Audit Accounts.
- c) **NOTED** the timescales for the Annual Governance Statement.

## **9 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND OPINION 22/23**

Report No.91/2023 was introduced by Rachel Ashley-Caunt, Chief Internal Auditor.

The report included a copy of the Annual Report which included the detailed Opinion on the Council's control framework for 2022/23 and the basis for this opinion.

The report also included details of the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 and achievement of the service's performance indicators. The team had delivered 100% of the agreed assignments from the Internal Audit Plan for the year and performed well against expected standards and customer feedback.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the Annual Internal Audit Report and Opinion for 2022/23.

## **10 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

Report No.90/2023 was introduced by Rachel Ashley-Caunt, Chief Internal Auditor.

The report provided the Committee with a copy of the 2023/24 annual Internal Audit plan and provided an update on the progress made in delivering the 2023/24 planned assignments.

It was requested by the Chair and agreed by officers that an update on the assurances and governance framework of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) would come to the next meeting.

It was moved by Councillor A MacCartney and seconded that the recommendations be approved. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the Internal Audit update report (Appendix A).
- b) **APPROVED** the proposed amendment to the 2023/24 Internal Audit plan to postpone the audit of Adult Social Care Data Quality and reallocate the 12 audit days to a follow up audit of Home to School Transport.

## **11 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)**

Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources verbally confirmed to the Committee that there had been no use of the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act since the last update.

## **12 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

Report No.89/2023 was introduced by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources.

The Risk Register had been reviewed and updated as at June 2023. The dashboard at Appendix A summarised the key movements since it was last presented at Audit and Risk in September 2022. The full register was included in Appendix B to the report.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the content of the updated Strategic Risk Register (Appendices A and B) and the actions underway to address the risks.

### **13 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

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**The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.**

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