

## **AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Monday, 13th November, 2023  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillor Paul Waring (Chair)

**Councillors:** Holland                      Stubbs  
Whieldon                              Brockie

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Burnett-Faulkner and Lewis

**Substitutes:** Councillor Paul Northcott  
Councillor Philip Reece (In place of Councillor Rebekah Lewis)

**Officers:** Sarah Wilkes                      Service Director - Finance /  
S151 Officer  
Clare Potts  
Anthony Harold                      Service Director - Legal &  
Governance / Monitoring Officer

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Stephen Sweeney      Deputy Leader of the Council  
and Portfolio Holder - Finance,  
Town Centres and Growth

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

4. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEARLY REPORT 2023/24**

The Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) presented the Treasury Management Half Yearly Report for 2023/24 allowing for the review of the Treasury Management activity for this period.

Cllr Stubbs expressed his appreciation in relation to the quality of the report.

**Resolved:** That the Treasury Management Half Yearly Report for 2023/24 be received.

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## **Audit and Standards Committee - 13/11/23**

### **5. QUARTER TWO CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT 2023/24**

The Service Director for Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer introduced the Corporate Risk Management Report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24, updating members on the current position in respect of risk management controls and identified corporate risks.

Cllr Stubbs asked why major delays encountered on one of the Town Deal projects in relation to Kidsgrove hadn't been picked up in the report. – While specific risks were not mentioned in the report they had been taken into account to generate the data obtained from the Governance Risk and Control Environment software, including those relating to the project mentioned.

Cllr Stubbs asked that details be provided in the February report.

- Resolved:**
1. That there were currently no risks that were more than 6 months overdue for a review up to end of Q2 2023/24, be noted.
  2. That there had been no risk level increases be noted.
  3. That no changes to the Corporate Risk Register be noted.
  4. That the new risk profile specifically for Newcastle Town Deal be noted.
  5. That the risk in relation to the Sky Building and J2 be noted.
  6. That officers be advised of any individual risk profiles that the Committee would like to scrutinise in more details at its next meeting.
  7. That whilst the likelihood of a risk materialising may be mitigated, the likely impacts may not change, be noted

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### **6. QUARTER TWO INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2023/24**

The Chief Internal Auditor presented the Internal Audit Update Report covering the period running from 1st July to 30th September 2023.

Cllr Northcott expressed his appreciation of the work provided by officers.

- Resolved:** That the report be considered.

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### **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair pointed out that some items needed to be moved down to the Previous Items sections and that the new auditors KPMG would be invited to the Committee at some point.

Cllr Stubbs asked if an audit report on the Town Centre Deal and Future High Street Funds could be scheduled. – The Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) responded that this would fall under the Finance and Performance Scrutiny

Committee and that information was currently being provided through the Quarterly Finance and Performance Report.

**Resolved:** That the work programme be noted.

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8. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

**Councillor Paul Waring  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.24 pm