

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 13
22 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Cecilie Booth, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Amjad Iqbal, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance
Contact Officer(s):	Steve Crabtree, Chief Internal Auditor

ANNUAL REPORT: INSURANCE 2023 / 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Steve Crabtree, Chief Internal Auditor	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Audit Committee:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive, consider and then endorse the attached annual report on the provision of Insurance during 2023 / 2024. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Audit Committee as a routine planned report on the provision of Insurance to Peterborough City Council and other third parties.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the work carried out during the past year to provide an effective insurance function which provides cover for all aspects of the Council.

2.2 This report is for the Audit Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference:

- 4.6: To review the Council's arrangements for corporate governance against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework and agree necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice and consider the local code of governance

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item / Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Insurance Team form part of the wider Audit, Insurance and Investigations Team and provide the following main services:

- Assess the insurance needs of Peterborough City Council and put in place an insurance programme that best reflects these needs, through a mixture of external insurance and use of the Insurance Fund;
- Handle all insurance claims pursued against Peterborough City Council up to the insurance deductible and liaise with insurers concerning all claims over the deductible;
- Evaluate insurance claims to identify both individual areas of risk mitigation and general risk trends, then implement strategies to reduce these; and
- Provide insurance services to other bodies, such as schools and Peterborough Limited

4.2 The annual report (**Appendix A**) sets out the key achievements in year, these being:

- Levels of claims received, rejected or accepted;
- Overview of the procedures in place to deal with subsidence claims etc.
- Impact of environmental events (e.g. climate changes)
- Comparisons were available to other organisations
- How the risk mitigation fund has been utilised to reduce insurance risk across the Council

4.3 Future work will:

- continue to monitor the level of subsidence claims and the effectiveness of the new protocols
- carefully consider new legislative actions
- oversee impact of financial implications as insurance markets harden and premiums increase; and
- monitor all claim activities to identify trends for any fraudulent claims as the ongoing cost of living crisis makes this more likely.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 The report links all corporate priorities.

6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1 The report has been issued to Executive Directors for consideration.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 That the Audit Committee is informed of the proactive measures taken to reduce the impact of insurance claims both from a financial and reputational perspective.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 To enable the Audit Committee to continue to monitor areas of governance across the Council.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 The Council will become more aware and will continue to consider the insurable risks and potential consequences. Every effort is undertaken across the Council to reduce the insurance need and mitigate for potential claims in the first place but where it occurs, robust processes will be in place to ensure high service standards are maintained.

Legal Implications

10.2 None

Equalities Implications

10.3 Not applicable.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

11.1 None.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 A: Insurance Report 2023/2024

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