

**MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 6.00PM, ON MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2024
IN THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

To be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting here:

[Agenda for Audit Committee on Monday 25th November, 2024, 6.00 pm | Peterborough City Council](#)

Should you wish to listen to the debate had, the audio recording can be located on the Committee meeting page at

[Audit Committee - 25 November 2024, 6:00pm](#)

Committee Members Present: Thulbourn (Vice-Chair), I. Ali, Antunes, Farooq, Perkins and Qayyum.

Co-opted Members Present: Schumann (Chair), Green (Virtual), Langhorn

Officers Present: Cecilie Booth, Executive Director for Corporate Services and S151 Officer
Steve Crabtree, Chief Internal Auditor
Belinda Evans, Complaint Manager
Gerry Roche, Risk Manager
Ben Stevenson, Head of Information Governance and Data Protection Officer
Isaac Aisu, Financial Reporting Advisor (Virtual)
Sabij Chalise, Corporate Finance Advisor (Virtual)
Karen Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Dan Cooke, Senior Manager, Ernst and Young LLP (Virtual)
Janet Dawson, Partner, Ernst and Young LLP (Virtual)

The meeting was opened by Cllr Thulbourn as there were no co-opted members present in person. The meeting was adjourned until the chair arrived at 6:10pm.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

32. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

33. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the actions and matters arising from previous meetings and progress made to date.

The Chairman agreed that the External Auditor Report would be heard next.

34. EY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AUDIT

The Committee received a report which provided the opportunity to review the updated audit results for the year ended 31 March 2022 and 2023 from Ernst & Young (EY) on behalf of the Council.

Members were advised that there had been some amendments to differences to opening balances and dates; and when corrected, the Committee would be provided with a final statement of the accounts and letters of representation for signature.

Members were informed that the audit opinions would be provided by 13 December 2024.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the updated audit results.

35. ANNUAL COMPLAINT REPORT 2023/2024

The Committee received a report that provided an opportunity to conduct an annual review of the management of complaints received by Peterborough City Council.

Members were advised that the data on complaints about bin collections would be the remit of Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to discuss and consider.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the annual complaint report.

6:29pm - At this point, Co-opted Member Mike Langhorn arrived at the meeting

36. INTERNAL AUDIT: MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT 2024/2025

The Committee received a report that provided an update on the internal audit coverage of the Annual Audit Plan 2024/2025.

Members raised various concerns in relation to non-compliance in completion of internal audits, resources to undertake internal audits, directorship of Peterborough Limited and how the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards review should be conducted. All concerns raised would be highlighted with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the progress of the Internal Audit plan for 2024 / 2025.
2. Note the forthcoming changes to Global Internal Audit Standards.
3. Provided comment on the Draft Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government as part of the current consultation process.

The Committee also agreed that:

- I. The Chair of Audit Committee would write a letter to the Chief Executive and the Leader of Peterborough City Council to raise the Committee views which included:
 - i. Consideration as to whether the reduced level of resources available to undertake internal audits to progress the audit plans, was seen as appropriate.

- ii. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) had expired and needed reassessment. As such, this non-compliance should be disclosed in the Annual Governance Statement.
 - iii. The review against the PSIAS should be completed independently. It should not be conducted by Cambridge County Council and an alternative local authority or CIPFA should be considered.
 - iv. Review the position of the Chief Internal Auditor's directorship of Peterborough Limited and whether this was appropriate to continue.
- II. As part of concerns raised, consider the overall responsibilities within the role of Chief Internal Auditor so that any other non-audit activities within the role, such as Insurance, could be removed and this would be raised with Corporate Leadership Team.
- III. The Section 151 Officer would obtain quotes for an external assessment against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, suggested by CIPFA, and present these findings to the Finance Sustainable Working Group (FSWG), to decide whether the council should commit to the cost during the imposition of a moratorium.

It was also agreed that the section 151 Officer would report back to Committee on the conclusions of the issues raised.

37. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee received a report on progress in addressing risk-related issues to the committee and to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the council. Members were invited to review and comment on the Deep Dive report and the Strategic Risk Register.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report and agreed that the Corporate Risk Manager and Executive Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer would:

- 1. Review the current risk appetite level and report back to Members on the need for a revised risk appetite.
- 2. Provide evidence of the Council's journey to manage each of the risks, currently outside of the Council's current Risk Appetite level, back within this level including timelines.

38. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR UPDATE

The Committee received a report on its treasury management policies, practices, and activities, including an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a midyear review and an annual report after its close

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the:

- 1. Update on the economic background and implications for the Treasury Management Strategy in 2024-25.
- 2. Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) Mid-year position and performance against the Prudential Indicators

At this point, Cllr Farooq left the meeting.

39. USE OF REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)

The Committee received a report on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) policy and processes.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note:

1. The outcome of the recent Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) inspection
2. The updated Peterborough City Council RIPA policy
3. A report detailing the usage of the powers
4. A link to the council's online RIPA training to aid with their understanding of the application of the powers

40. APPROVED WRITE-OFFS EXCEEDING £10,000

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note that there was no update on write-offs exceeding £10,000.

41. WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the rolling work programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year be noted and agreed.

CHAIR

End 7:45pm