



**Minutes of the Audit and Accounts  
Committee held at the Civic Centre,  
Riverside, Stafford on Wednesday  
19 June 2024**

Chairman - Councillor M G Dodson

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

K M Aspin  
A R McNaughton

D M McNaughton  
D P Rouxel

Also present:-

Councillor R P Cooke (Resources Portfolio)

Officers in attendance:-

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
S Baddeley	-	Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

**AAC1 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2024 as published on 21 March 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

**AAC2 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P A Leason and A M Loughran (substituted by Councillor D M McNaughton).

**AAC3 Strategic Risk Register**

Considered the report of the Head of Transformation and Assurance setting out details of the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 1 April 2024.

The Head of Transformation and Governance highlighted the detail as contained within paragraph 5 of the report, and the associated appendix 2.

Members duly voted on the recommendation as set out, was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:-** that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the draft Strategic Risk Register and progress made in the identification and management of the strategic risks be noted.

**AAC4 Internal Audit Annual Report 2023-24**

Considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager presenting the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2023-24.

Mr Baddeley referred Members to the associated appendices to the report before responding to questions concerning:-

- S106 agreements and projects - partial assurance
- Potential changes to the format of the report
- Fraud and irregularity work
- Implementation of follow ups (StreetScene)

Members duly voted on the recommendation as set out, was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:-** that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2023-24 be noted.

**AAC5 VFM Progress Report 2023/24**

Considered the report of the Head of Transformation and Assurance advising Members on the progress in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan at the end of 2023-24.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) was pleased to report a strong start in responding to the report of the external auditors, with much progress made and further associated strategies under preparation.

Continuing, the Head of Transformation and Assurance referred Members to the detail as contained within paragraph 5.6 of the report.

Members duly voted on the recommendation as set out, was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:-** that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the progress at the end of the 2023-24 in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan (as set out in appendix 1 of the report) be noted.

The Chairman of the Committee congratulated Officers on their efforts in respect of delivering the improvement plan.

## **AAC6 Annual Governance Statement 2023-24**

Considered the report of the Head of Transformation and Assurance setting out the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2023-24.

The Head of Transformation and Assurance noted the granting of 'limited assurance' as noted in the associated appendix 1 before detailing the governance issues as set out in paragraph 6 of said appendix including those new issues included in the improvement plan.

Members duly voted on the recommendation as set out, was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:-** that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24 (as set out at appendix 1 of the report) be approved;
- (b) the updated Improvement Plan (as set out in appendix 2 of the report) be approved.

CHAIR