

Chairman - Councillor R A James

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

Councillors:

M G Dodson

A Nixon

D P Rouxel

J Thorley

Officers in attendance:-

C Forrester	-	S151 Officer
J Aupers	-	Head of Business Support and Assurance
S Baddeley	-	Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

Also present:-

Councillor R P Cooke (Resources Portfolio)

Laura Hinsley - Azets

AAC8 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2026, as previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

AAC9 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor J A Barron and A R McNaughton (substituted by Councillor J Thorley).

AAC10 External Auditor's Annual Report Year Ended 31 March 2026

The External Auditors' (Azets) report was circulated with the agenda.

The most significant risks were summarised.

Progress to be reported by Azets each quarter to this committee.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted

AAC11 External Auditor's Buildback Report

The External Auditors' (Azets) report had been circulated with the agenda.

Work required for a clean audit opinion was highlighted. It was noted that a large amount of work is already being undertaken.

Buildback fees approx. £211k.

Feedback was given regarding the change in reporting style and the need for consistency to make comparisons.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted

AAC12 Updated Strategic Risk Register

Head of Business Support and Assurance introduced the report.

It was noted that there are 4 orange risks (as of 30 June 2026), not 5 as mentioned in the report.

There had been no change to the scores in the last quarter. The report had references to LGR which was now paused.

JA / CF to look at the language used to ensure it is sufficiently clear.

RESOLVED:- that:

- (a) the Strategic Risk Register be noted
- (b) the progress made in the identification and management of strategic risks be noted

AAC13 Governance Improvement Plan - Progress Report for Quarter 1 2026-27

Head of Business Support and Assurance introduced the report.

Actions for the quarter were summarised.

Leadership Team are looking at workstreams and projects that were previously put on hold due to LGR, to identify priority areas that can now be reconsidered.

RESOLVED:- that the contents of the Governance Improvement Plan be noted

AAC14 Internal Audit Update

Chief Internal Auditor and Risk Manager presented the report, highlighting a table of completed audits and audits which had had at least one follow up.

It was agreed to invite Head of Operations to the next meeting to provide an update on Pest and Dog Control which had had 4 follow-ups.

It was also agreed to invite Head of Housing and Corporate Assets to the next meeting to provide an update regarding Property Management and Rentals which had had two follow ups.

Finally, a list of outstanding audits was shared but it was noted that not all of them could be delivered within a year.

RESOLVED:- that:

- (a) the committee notes the Internal Audit update;
- (b) Head of Operations and Head of Housing and Corporate Assets to be invited to present at the next meeting.

CHAIR