

# NOTICE OF MEETING

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## GOVERNANCE & AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2023 AT 10.00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

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If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

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### Membership

Councillor Leo Madden (Chair)  
Councillor Dave Ashmore  
Councillor Stuart Brown  
Councillor Judith Smyth  
Councillor Benedict Swann  
Councillor Daniel Wemyss

### Standing Deputies

Councillor Simon Boshier  
Councillor Graham Heaney  
Councillor Ian Holder  
Councillor Mark Jeffery  
Councillor Abdul Kadir  
Councillor Scott Payter-Harris  
Councillor John Smith

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(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

**Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendation/s). Email requests are accepted.**

## **Public health guidance for staff and the public due to Winter coughs, colds and viruses, including Covid-19**

- Following the government announcement 'Living with Covid-19' made on 21 February and the end of universal free testing from 1 April, attendees are no longer required to undertake any asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting; however, we still encourage attendees to follow the public health precautions we have followed over the last two years to protect themselves and others including vaccination and taking a lateral flow test should they wish.
- We strongly recommend that attendees should be double vaccinated and have received any boosters they are eligible for.
- If unwell we encourage you not to attend the meeting but to stay at home. Updated government guidance from 1 April advises people with a respiratory infection, a high temperature and who feel unwell, to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. From 1 April, anyone with a positive Covid-19 test result is still being advised to follow this guidance for five days, which is the period when you are most infectious.
- We encourage all attendees to wear a face covering while moving around crowded areas of the Guildhall.
- Although not a legal requirement, attendees are strongly encouraged to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection by following the 'hands, face, space' and 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice that protects us from coughs, colds and winter viruses, including Covid-19.
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall.
- Those not participating in the meeting and wish to view proceedings are encouraged to do so remotely via the livestream link.

### **AGENDA**

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

#### **2 Declarations of Members' Interests**

#### **3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2022 (Pages 7 - 12)**

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **4 Contract Procedure Rules**

Report to follow under separate cover.

##### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to replace the Council's current Contract Procedure Rules ("CPRs").

Adopting the revised rules will help ensure that the Council is able to more effectively and proportionally discharge its procurement function in readiness for the forthcoming legislative procurement reforms. The revised rules will also provide a dynamic platform from which to implement existing and future locally led policy within the Council's procurement practices.

If endorsed by the committee, the revised CPR's would be recommended to Full Council for approval as it would be an amendment to Part 3A of the Council's Constitution.

**5 Treasury Management Monitoring Report for the Third Quarter of 2022/23 (Pages 13 - 22)**

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to inform members and the wider community of the Council's Treasury Management position, ie. its borrowing and cash investments at 31st December 2022 and of the risks attached to that position.

Whilst the Council has a portfolio of investment properties and some equity shares which were acquired through the capital programme; these do not in themselves form part of the treasury management function.

Recommendations

**It is recommended that the following be noted:**

- (i) The Council's Treasury Management activities in the period up to 31 December 2022 set out in Appendix A; and**
- (ii) The actual Treasury Management indicators as at 31st December 2022 set out in Appendix A.**

**6 Internal Audit Performance Status Report to 10th January 2023 (Pages 23 - 38)**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee on Internal Audit Performance for 2022/23 to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 against the Annual Audit Plan, highlight areas of concern and areas where assurance can be given on the internal control framework..

Recommendation

**Recommended that the Governance, Audit & Standards Committee notes:**

- (i) the Audit Performance for 2022-23 to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023; and**

- (ii) **the highlighted areas of concern in relation to audits completed from the 2022/23 Audit Plan, including follow up work performed.**

**7 Whistleblowing Annual Report and Policy (Pages 39 - 50)**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members of this Committee on the nature and handling of any whistleblowing concerns which have been raised for the period January 2022 to December 2022. In addition to this to confirm that, following the annual review of the whistleblowing policy, there are no current proposed changes, since those agreed at the January 2022 committee meeting.

Recommendation

**RECOMMENDED that Members of the Committee:**

- (i) **Note this report and the attached Appendix A and consider whether any further action is required; and**
- (ii) **Note the whistleblowing policy, Appendix B, where there are no proposed changes.**

**8 Report to Governance & Audit & Standards Committee on complaints received into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by Members of the Council for the calendar year 2022 (Pages 51 - 54)**

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Committee in relation to complaints which have been progressed within the calendar year 2022 and which allege that Councillors may have breached the Code of Conduct.

Recommendations

- (i) **It is recommended that Members of the Committee note the report;**
- (ii) **It is recommended that Members of the Committee consider whether any further action is required by them; and**
- (iii) **It is recommended that Members of the Committee place on record their thanks to the Independent Persons.**

**9 Consideration of the political balance rules in relation to the constitution of Sub-Committees considering complaints against Members (Pages 55 - 56)**

Purpose

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to continue to disapply the political balance rules in respect of its Sub-Committees which consider complaints against Members and to agree that the same rule shall apply to the Initial Filtering Panel.

Recommendation

**It is recommended that the political balance rules are disapplied in respect of Governance and Audit and Standards Sub-Committees which are considering complaints against Members and also the same arrangement should apply in respect of Initial Filtering Panel membership.**

Members of the public are permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting nor records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

Whilst every effort will be made to webcast this meeting, should technical or other difficulties occur, the meeting will continue without being webcast via the Council's website.

This meeting is webcast (videoed), viewable via the Council's livestream account at <https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785>