

NOTICE OF MEETING

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2023 AT 10.30 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to James Harris on 023 9260 6065

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

Membership

Councillor Leo Madden (Chair)
Councillor Stuart Brown (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Graham Heaney
Councillor George Madgwick
Councillor Benedict Swann
Councillor Daniel Wemyss

Standing Deputies

Councillor Chris Attwell
Councillor Hannah Brent
Councillor Jason Fazackarley
Councillor Abdul Kadir
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Emily Strudwick
Councillor Mary Vallely

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

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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.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Members' Interests

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 (Pages 5 - 12)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Internal Audit Performance Status Report to 6th July 2023 & Annual Audit Opinion 2022/23 (Pages 13 - 64)

The purpose of this report is to update the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee on the Internal Audit Performance for 2022-23 to 6th July 2023 against the Annual Audit Plan, highlight areas of concern and areas where assurance can be given on the internal control framework.

In addition to this, the Annual Opinion on the effectiveness of the Internal Control Environment is provided in the attached Appendix B. This opinion feeds into the Annual Governance Statement and is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance, Audit & Standards Committee NOTES:

- (i) the Audit Performance and results for 2022-23 to 6 July 2023;**
- (ii) any highlighted areas of concern in relation to audits completed from the 2022-23 Audit Plan, including follow up work performed; and**
- (iii) the Annual Audit Report and Opinion for 2022-23.**

5 Annual Governance Statement (Pages 65 - 112)

The purpose of the report is to seek approval from the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee for the council's draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2022/23.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee:

- (i) AGREES the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (Appendix 1); and**
- (ii) NOTES the refreshed Local Code of Governance (attached Appendix 2)**

6 Risk and Assurance Management Policy (Pages 113 - 136)

The purpose of this report is to present the council's risk and assurance management policy to the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee for approval.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee:

- (i) APPROVES the attached Risk and Assurance Management Policy; and**
- (ii) AGREES to review the risk management policy in July 2025, including risks current at the time and lessons learnt over the previous year.**

7 Consideration of the political balance rules in relation to the constitution of Sub-Committees considering complaints against Members (Pages 137 - 138)

The purpose of this report is to ask the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee to consider whether it wishes 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.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee disapplies the political balance rules 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.

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