



NOTICE OF MEETING

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2024 AT 10.00 AM

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THIRD FLOOR, THE GUILDHALL,
PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to James Harris on 023 9260 6065
Email: james.harris@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

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 Emily Strudwick
Councillor Benedict Swann
Councillor Daniel Wemyss

Standing Deputies

Councillor Chris Attwell
Councillor Hannah Brent
Councillor Jason Fazackarley
Councillor Abdul Kadir
Councillor George Madgwick
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mary Vallely

(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

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.

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Members' Interests

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 (Pages 7 - 12)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and Audit Update (Pages 13 - 14)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the status of the City Council's 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and the related Audit activity.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee notes the report.

5 Portsmouth City Council Audit Results Report Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Pages 15 - 74)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the audit of Portsmouth City Council for the year ended 31 March 2022, which was substantially complete.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee notes the report.

6 Corporate Complaints Policy Update (Pages 75 - 78)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee interim changes to the Corporate Complaints Policy, required to meet the legislative requirements of the Social Housing Regulation Act (2023) from 1 April 2024; and to provide the committee with an update on plans to formally review the [corporate complaints policy](#) once the outcome of a Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) consultation on a statutory code for complaints is known.

RECOMMENDED that the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee notes the report.

7 Whistleblowing Annual Report and Policy (Pages 79 - 90)

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 2023 to December 2023.

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 Internal Audit Performance Status Report to 8th January 2024 (Pages 91 - 110)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee on the Internal Audit Performance for 2023/24 to 8th January 2024 against the Annual Audit Plan, highlight areas of concern and areas where assurance can be given on the internal control framework.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

- (i) That Members note the Audit Performance for 2023-24 to 8th January 2024 and**
- (ii) That Members note the highlighted areas of concern in relation to audits completed from the 2023/24 Audit Plan, including follow up work performed.**

9 Treasury Management Monitoring Report for the Third Quarter of 2023/24
(Pages 111 - 122)

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to inform members and the wider community of the Council's Treasury Management position, i.e., its borrowing and cash investments as of 31 December 2023 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

- (i) That the Council's Treasury Management activities have remained within the Treasury Management Policy 2023/24 in the period up to 31 December 2023 and**
- (ii) the actual Treasury Management indicators as at 31 December 2023 set out in Appendix A be NOTED.**

10 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 2023 (Pages 123 - 128)

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 2023 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.**

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