



NOTICE OF MEETING

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024 AT 5.00 PM

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 Ian Holder (Chair)
Councillor Stuart Brown (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Richard Adair
Councillor Spencer Gardner
Councillor Russell Simpson
Councillor Judith Smyth

Standing Deputies

Councillor Simon Boshier
Councillor Hannah Brent
Councillor Mark Jeffery
Councillor Abdul Kadir
Councillor George Madgwick
Councillor Benedict Swann
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE

(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 10 July 2024 (Pages 7 - 12)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Pages 13 - 32)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to detail the outcomes of the review of polling districts and polling places recently undertaken and to invite members to consider the recommendations made.

Recommendations

That the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee Recommends to Full Council:

- 1) That no changes are made to the current polling scheme for the reasons set out in this report; and**
- 2) That it be reconfirmed that the Returning Officer has delegated authority to make such variations to polling places as may be necessary arising from the availability of premises for use at a particular election.**

5 Complaints Policy Review (Pages 33 - 60)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee with the background and rationale for the updated Complaints Policy and process, and to seek approval for the new policy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the new Complaints Policy is approved for implementation from 1 November 2024.

6 Overview of Portsmouth City Council complaints, including Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Complaints 2023/2024
(Pages 61 - 78)

Purpose

To bring to the attention of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee the Annual Review of Complaints by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) dated 17th July 2024 regarding complaints it has considered against Portsmouth City Council for the year 2023/24, and to provide an overall review of complaints.

Recommendation

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

7 Data Security Breaches Report (Pages 79 - 98)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of any data security breaches and enable them to determine whether any trends appear and whether any further actions should be recommended.

Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee notes the breaches that have arisen.

8 Internal Audit Performance Status Report to 16th September 2024
(Pages 99 - 116)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee on the Internal Audit Performance for 2024-25 to 16th September 2024 against the Annual Audit Plan, highlight areas of concern and areas where assurance can be given on the internal control framework.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDED that the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee NOTES the Audit Performance for 2024-25 to 16th September 2024.

9 Treasury Management Monitoring Report for the First Quarter of 2024/25
(Pages 117 - 128)

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 at 30 June 2024 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 2024/25 in the period up to 30 June 2024; and**
- (ii) the actual Treasury Management indicators as at 30 June 2024 set out in Appendix A be NOTED**

10 Procurement Act 2023 and Contract Procedure Rules (Pages 129 - 148)

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the significant upcoming changes to public sector procurement that will arise when the Procurement Act comes into force on 24th February 2025, along with a summary of the direct impacts this will have on the council.

Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee:

- (i) Gives approval to the City Solicitor, with support from the Council's Procurement Service, to draft the revisions required to bring the Council's CPRs into compliance with the new legal requirements set out within the Procurement Act;**
- (ii) That subject to no further delays to the introduction of the act being announced by central government - the revised CPRs are scheduled for review and endorsement at the 5th February 2025 Committee meeting;**
- (iii) That, subject to no further government delays to commencement of the act and endorsement by the Committee, the revised CPRs are scheduled for approval at the 18th March 2025 Full Council meeting; and**

(iv) That subject to no further government delays to commencement of the act and approval at Full Council that the revised rules are formally adopted into the constitution from 1st April 2025.

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