

Meeting: **Audit and Governance Committee**
Date: **15 March 2023**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All members of the Audit and Governance Committee**

The committee will consider the matters, listed below, at the date, time and place shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Members of the committee, who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda, which is not fully covered in these papers, are requested to give notice, prior to the meeting, to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

This meeting will be webcast live to the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>.

Please note there will be 37 seats available for members of the public, which will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting. The remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)**

Members of the committee should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI);
- b) other significant interests (OSI);
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Sue Lewis – Tel: 01303 853265/3267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

3. **Minutes (Pages 7 - 12)**

To consider and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022.

4. **Statement of Accounts 2020/21 (Pages 13 - 244)**

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 the council must consider and approve its Statement of Accounts no later than 30 September 2021. The audit of the 2020/21 Accounts has now been fully completed. The final audit findings in relation to the audit of the 2020/21 Statements of Account are set out in Grant Thornton's Audit Findings report.

5. **Statement of Accounts 2021/22 (Pages 245 - 436)**

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022 the council must consider and approve its 2021/22 Statement of Accounts no later than 30 November 2022. The audit of the 2021/22 Accounts has now been fully completed. The final audit findings in relation to the audit of the 2021/22 Statements of Account are set out in Grant Thornton's Audit Findings report.

Appendix 2 to follow.

6. **Quarterly Code of Conduct Complaints Update Report (Pages 437 - 440)**

This report provides an update to the Committee on Member Code of Conduct complaints received during quarter 3 of 22/23 (1 October to 31 December 2022).

7. **Annual Report - Maintaining Ethical Standards (Pages 441 - 444)**

This annual report to the Audit and Performance Committee is submitted in accordance with the Committee's term of reference as follows:

"To receive an annual report on the District Council's ethical governance arrangements".

One of the roles of the council's Monitoring Officer is to advance good governance and ensure the highest standards of ethical behaviour are maintained through the effective discharge of their statutory duties.

8. **Annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee (Pages 445 - 450)**

This report summarises the achievements of the Audit and Governance Committee against the terms of reference for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and details the impact that it has made on the overall system of internal control in operation.

9. **Review of Corporate Risk Register (Pages 451 - 462)**

This report provides an update to the Corporate Risk Register.

10. **Review of Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Pages 463 - 486)**

This report presents an updated Risk Management Policy & Strategy for consideration by the Audit & Governance Committee, ahead of its adoption by Cabinet. The Policy & Strategy provides a framework for the management of risk by Officers and Members. There is a separate report on the agenda which provides an update to the Corporate Risk Register.

11. **Local Code of Corporate Governance (Pages 487 - 500)**

This report recommends the approval of a local code of corporate governance for 2023/24.

12. **Quarterly Internal Audit Update Report from the Head of East Kent Audit Partnership (Pages 501 - 516)**

This report includes the summary of the work of the East Kent Audit Partnership (EKAP) since the last Audit and Governance Committee meeting together with details of the performance of the EKAP to the 31st December 2022.

13. **Internal Audit Charter and Draft Internal Audit Plan 2023/24 from the Head of East Kent Audit Partnership (Pages 517 - 552)**

This report includes the Audit Charter for the East Kent Audit Partnership which sets out the overarching vision, aims and strategy for the Internal Audit Service together with the draft plan of work for the forthcoming 12 months for approval.