

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 18 JULY 2022

Present: Councillor I L Tyler, Chair

Councillors: P Lally (Vice-Chair)
M Brown
S Dannheimer
H G Khaled MBE
H Land
J M Owen
P J Owen (substitute)
J C Patrick
P Roberts-Thomson
R S Robinson
R D Willimott (substitute)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Hannah, J P T Parker and P D Simpson.

8 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

9 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

10 **INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Committee noted arrangements for the interim review of polling districts and polling places which would begin on 1 August 2022.

11 **INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW 2021-22**

The Committee noted the work of Internal Audit during 2021/22 and noted the annual internal audit assurance opinion that can be used by the Council to inform its Annual Governance Statement.

Overall, 72% of the planned audits were complete or awaiting finalisation at the year-end, below the 90% target. This was primarily due to a vacancy within the Internal Audit team since October 2021. A risk-based approach to completing audits has been taken during this period, with higher-risk audits being prioritised for completion.

12 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered the recent work completed by Internal Audit.

It was noted that Internal Audit had also reviewed progress made by management in implementing agreed actions within six months of the completion of the respective audits.

13 REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The Committee considered the Strategic Risk Register and the action plans identified to mitigate risks.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the Strategic Risk Register and the actions to mitigate risks as set out in appendix 2 be approved.

14 COMPLAINTS REPORT 2021/22

Members were provided with a summary of complaints made against the Council. It was noted that there had been a decrease in stage 1 complaints received and a decrease in stage 2 complaints in 2021/22.

15 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REPORT 2021/22

Members were provided with an overview of Freedom of Information requests made to the Council. It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of requests received in comparison to the previous year.

16 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Committee noted the findings of Housing Ombudsman (HO) had made in relation of injustice in respect of a lack of repairs undertaken to a complainant's property. Concern was raised over the findings of the HO and the Complaints Department. It was noted that the functions and performance of the Housing Repairs Department was currently being reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

17 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.