

Audit and Governance Committee 18 July 2024



Time and venue:

6.00 pm in the Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG

Membership:

Councillor Christina Ewbank (Chair); Councillors Ali Dehdashty (Deputy-Chair) Hugh Parker, Pat Rodohan, Kshama Shore, David Small, Robin Maxted, Alan Shuttleworth and Stephen Gilbert (Audit Independent Member)

Quorum: 2

Published: Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Agenda

1 Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee.

2 Apologies for absence/declaration of substitute members

3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.

4 Questions by members of the public.

On matters not already included on the agenda and for which prior written notice has been given (total time allowed 15 minutes).

5 Urgent items of business.

The Chairman to notify the Committee of any items of urgent business to be added to the agenda.

6 Right to address the meeting/order of business.

The Chairman to report any requests received to address the Committee from a member of the public or from a Councillor in respect of an item listed below and to invite the Committee to consider taking such items at the commencement of the meeting.

7 External Audits Update (Pages 11 - 16)

Report of the Director of Finance and Performance.

8 Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24 (Pages 17 - 36)

Report of the Director of Finance and Performance.

9 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Report for the financial year 2023-2024 (Pages 37 - 78)

Report of the Chief Internal Auditor.

10 Annual Governance Statement (Pages 79 - 114)

Report of the Chief Internal Auditor.

11 External Audit Plan 2023/24 Accounts (Pages 115 - 166)

Report of the Director of Finance and Performance.

(This report contains an exempt appendix. Any discussion of these must take place following exclusion of the public.)

12 Exclusion of the public

The Chief Executive considers that discussion of the following items is likely to disclose exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and may therefore need to take place in private session. The exempt information reasons are shown beneath the items listed below. Furthermore, in relation to paragraph 10 of Schedule 12A, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. (The requisite notices having been given under regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.)

13 External Audit Plan 2023/24 Accounts - Exempt Appendix 3 (Pages 167 - 192)

Report of the Director of Finance and Performance and External Auditor, Grant Thornton.

Exempt information reason 3 – Information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14 Date of next meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee is scheduled to be held on 25th September 2024 in the Court Room, Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne, commencing at 6:00pm

Information for the public

Accessibility: Please note that the venue for this meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired. If you would like to use the hearing loop please advise Democratic Services (see below for contact details) either

in advance of the meeting or when you arrive so that they can set you up with the relevant equipment to link into the system.

This agenda and accompanying reports are published on the Council's website in PDF format which means you can use the "read out loud" facility of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Filming/Recording: This meeting may be being webcast and may be filmed, recorded or broadcast by any person or organisation. Anyone wishing to film or record must notify the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Members of the public attending the meeting are deemed to have consented to be filmed or recorded, as liability for this is not within the Council's control.

Public participation: Please contact Democratic Services (see end of agenda) for the relevant deadlines for registering to speak on a matter which is listed on the agenda if applicable.

Information for Councillors

Disclosure of interests:

Members should declare their interest in a matter at the beginning of the meeting.

In the case of a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), if the interest is not registered (nor the subject of a pending notification) details of the nature of the interest must be reported to the meeting by the member and subsequently notified in writing to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

If a member has a DPI or other prejudicial interest he/she must leave the room when the matter is being considered (unless he/she has obtained a dispensation).

Councillor right of address:

Councillors wishing to address the meeting who are not members of the committee must notify the Chairman and Democratic Services in advance (prior to the start of the meeting), with the exception of Planning Committee meetings where registering to speak must be made in accordance with the relevant public speaking rules set out in the Council's constitution.

Democratic Services

For any further queries regarding this agenda or notification of apologies please contact Democratic Services.

Email: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 410000

Council website: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/>

Modern.gov app available: View upcoming public committee documents on your device. Free modern.gov [iPad app](#) or [Android app](#) or [Microsoft app](#) .