

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 JUNE 2023

Audit Committee

Thursday 29 June 2023 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Cassidy (for McGuire), Crowther, Curley, McCabe, McCluskey, McCormick, McVey, Reynolds, Robertson (for Nelson) and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Louise Long	Chief Executive
Iain Strachan	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services
Vicky Pollock	Legal Services Manager (Procurement, Conveyancing & Information Governance)
Andi Priestman	Chief Internal Auditor
Alan Puckrin	Chief Financial Officer
Stuart Jamieson	Director Environment & Regeneration
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Matt Thomson	Finance Manager (Environment & Technical)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Siobhan MacMaster	Solicitor, Legal Services
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety

In attendance also:

Michael Wilkie	KPMG
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The meeting was held by video conference.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

364 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 364

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Nelson, with Councillor Robertson substituting, Councillor McGuire, with Councillor Cassidy substituting, and Provost McKenzie.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but a certain connection was intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:
Agenda Item 5 (External Audit Plan for the Year Ended 31 March 2023) - Councillor Wilson.

365 Internal Audit Annual Report and Assurance Statement 2022-2023 365

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services presenting the Internal Audit Annual Report and Assurance Statement 2022-2023, which forms part of the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

Decided: that based on the reports received and reviewed by the Audit Committee, members are in agreement with the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and assurance statement which confirmed an overall audit opinion of Satisfactory such that

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that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control system in 2022-23 and are satisfied that active monitoring and follow up of agreed action plans is in place.

366 **Annual Report on the Audit Committee - 2022-2023** 366

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services providing Members with the Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2022-2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the Annual Report on the Audit Committee 2022-2023 be approved; and
- (2) that it be agreed to present the report to a future meeting of the Inverclyde Council in line with best practice.

367 **Review of Local Code of Governance and Interim Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023** 367

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services (1) advising Members of the outcome of the annual self-evaluation exercise undertaken of the Council's compliance with its Local Code of Governance, and (2) inviting Members to consider the Interim Annual Governance Statement that will be included in the 2022-2023 Unaudited Accounts.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the recent self-evaluation exercise in considering how the Council currently meets the agreed Local Code of Governance, together with the issues identified and improvement actions, be noted; and
- (2) that the actions identified by management to improve the internal control environment of the Interim Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023 be approved.

368 **External Audit Plan for the Year Ended 31 March 2023** 368

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer presenting the External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2023 produced by KPMG, this following consideration of an Indicative Plan by the Committee on 25 April 2023.

Councillor Wilson declared a connection in this item as a member of the Strathclyde Pension Scheme. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2023 be noted.

369 **Unaudited Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023** 369

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, together with a briefing note circulated to Members prior to the meeting, requesting the Committee to review the unaudited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 and approve their submission to Audit Scotland by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2023. The Committee heard a short presentation on the position in respect of the unaudited Annual Accounts by Matt Thomson, Finance Manager.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, having reviewed the unaudited Annual Accounts, approve their submission to Audit Scotland;
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Financial Officer to amend the

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unaudited Annual Accounts to reflect the results of the Heritage Asset Revaluation which are expected in late June 2023; and

(3) that it be noted that the External Auditor's Annual Report to Members for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2023 will be reported to the Council on 28 September 2023.