



AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2023

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Lisa Jerome (01438) 242203

committees@stevenage.gov.uk

Members: Councillors: M McKay (Chair), S Booth, L Briscoe, R Broom, N Chowdhury, A Farquharson, G Lawrence CC, Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, OBE, C Veres and T Wren.
Independent Co-opted Non-Voting Member - Mr G Gibbs

AGENDA

PART I

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

3. MINUTES - 27 MARCH 2023

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 27 March 2023.

Pages 3 – 8

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

To note the Terms of Reference for the Committee, as agreed by the Annual Council meeting on 24 May 2023.

Pages 9 – 10

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND AUDIT FIRMS

To consider a verbal report from Ernst & Young regarding the recent Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' letter regarding Local Government and Audit Firms (attached).

Pages 11 – 14

6. 2020/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT OF SBC ACCOUNTS - UPDATE

To receive a verbal update from Ernst & Young regarding progress on the 2020/21 external audit of SBC accounts.

7. ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT AND SIAS ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

To consider the Annual Assurance Statement and Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23 prepared by SIAS.

Pages 15 – 42

8. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23 AND LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

To consider the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 and Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Pages 43 – 94

9. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

11. PART II MINUTES - AUDIT COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 2023

To approve as a correct record the Part II Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 27 March 2023.

Pages 95 - 96

12. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

To note the latest Strategic Risk Register for Stevenage Borough Council and developments on risk management issues.

Pages 97 - 160

13. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent.