



AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 26 March 2024

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Contact: Ian Gourlay (01438) 242703

committees@stevenage.gov.uk

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

AGENDA

PART I

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 6 FEBRUARY 2024 AND 28 FEBRUARY 2024

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 6 February 2024 and 28 February 2024.
Pages 3 – 12

3. 2021/22 AND 2022/23 VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS - INTERIM REPORT

To consider an interim report on the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Value for Money audits prepared by Ernst & Young.
Page 13 – 38

4. LOCAL AUDIT DELAYS - UPDATE MARCH 2024

To update Members with current proposals from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to address the backlog of local government audits in England and how these proposals may impact the Council.
Pages 39 – 72

5. SHARED ANTI-FRAUD SERVICE (SAFS) PROPOSED ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2024/25

To consider the Shared Anti-Fraud Service's proposed Anti-Fraud Plan for 2024/25.
Pages 73 – 86

6. PROGRESS ON SAFS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2023/24

To consider progress on the SAFS Anti-Fraud Plan 2023/24.
Pages 87 - 94

**7. SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (SIAS) INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN
2024/25**

To consider the proposed Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25.
Pages 95 – 110

8. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

To consider an assessment of Corporate Governance arrangements.
Pages 111 – 124

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. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

To consider the latest Strategic Risk Register.
Pages 125 - 136

12. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

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