
AUDIT COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

30 November 2021
(Published on 2 December 2021)

Item No.	Title
2	Declarations of Interest
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair of the Committee noted the details of all Councillors' interests already declared in District, Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>There were no new declarations of interest.</p>
3	Minutes from the meeting held on 23 September 2021
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 were accurate, and the Chair signed them.</p>
4	Public Question Time
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that no questions or statements from the public were received by the PQT deadline of 5:00 pm on Wednesday 24 November 2021.</p>
5	Internal Audit Update
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair invited the Assistant Director of SWAP to present the progress update for November, which focused on high-risk areas and limited assurance. Some reports have been finalised and more will be finalised in January 2022, while SWAP is on track to deliver the scheduled audit work.</p>

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	<p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Considered and commented on the update report.</p>
6	Approval of the Pension Fund Accounts 2020/2021
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair invited the Key Audit Partner of Grant Thornton to present the Audit Findings Report for the Somerset Pension Fund; this was an update to the report which was first presented in September. There was only one change which was highlighted in Appendix A. The Key Audit Partner also presented the Letter of Representation.</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered and commented on the Audit Findings Report for the Somerset Pension Fund • Approved the Letter of Representation and the Pension Fund Accounts 2020/2021
7	Approval of the Statement of Accounts 2020/2021
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair invited the Key Audit Partner of Grant Thornton to present the Audit Findings Report for Somerset County Council. He confirmed that the audit has been completed and they will soon be able to issue the audit opinion.</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered and commented on the reports • Noted the position of the external auditors' VFM work • Approved the Audited Statement of Accounts 2020-2021 • Approved the Letter of Representation
8	Appointment of External Auditors
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair invited the Director of Finance and Governance to present the report, which noted that the Council has, along with all Somerset local authorities, been</p>

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	<p>invited to take part in the national auditor appointment arrangements established by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the period covering 2018/19 to 2022/23. If the Audit Committee recommends acceptance, the matter will go to Full Council by March 2022 for approval.</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Accepted the invitation to opt into the PSAA sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years from 1 April 2023.</p>
9	Independent Member for the Audit Committee
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Chair invited the Governance Specialist-Democratic Services to present the report from the Monitoring Officer following the recommendation within the Redmond Review related to the appointment of at least one independent member, suitably qualified but not a County, District or Parish Councillor, to the Audit Committee. This appointee will act in an advisory role and will not have voting rights. It is proposed that recruitment will be completed in such time as to enable the successful candidate to attend the Audit Committee meeting on 27 January 2022.</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Considered and commented on the report and noted the recruitment pack and timetable for recruitment.</p>
10	Committee Work Programme
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Audit Committee:</p> <p>Noted the Work Programme that listed future agenda items and reports.</p>
11	Any other urgent items of business
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>There were no other items of business.</p>

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