

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Audit Committee on Thursday, 26 October 2023

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A3	Minutes from the Previous Meeting	<p>The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2023 were proposed by Cllr Andy Sully and seconded by Cllr Mandy Chilcott.</p> <p>The committee RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 28th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.</p>
A6	External Audit Report on Value for Money letter to Somerset Council on 2023/24 Financial Stability	<p>The Audit Committee RESOLVED:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the issues raised by the Section 151 Officer in his letter to DLUHC concerning the financial challenges faced by Somerset and agreed to hold an additional meeting in December, along with Directors, to look at and review the current position. The request for an additional meeting was agreed to by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and a date will be advised as soon as possible. • To note the findings from Grant Thornton following the letter to DLUHC concerning Somerset Councils Financial Sustainability and the Chair confirmed that he would formally write a letter to the S151 Officer reflecting their concerns.
A7	Internal Audit Progress Report for Somerset council 2023/24	<p>The Audit Committee noted the position of the 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan and confirmed that they would take into account the concerns raised surrounding prioritisation of strategic risks and the addition of new items.</p>

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A8	External Audit Findings Report for South Somerset District Council 2021/22	<p>Councillor Tim Kerley proposed the amendments to the South Somerset District Council 2021/22 Audit Findings Report which was seconded by Councillor Simon Coles.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to approve the South Somerset District Council 2021/22 Audit Findings Report subject to the amendments.</p> <p>Councillor Mandy Chilcott proposed the substantive changes to the South Somerset District Council 2021/22 Audit Findings Report which was seconded by Councillor Simon Coles.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to approve the South Somerset District Council 2021/22 Audit Findings Report subject to the substantive changes.</p> <p>The Audit Committee noted the additional fees as set out in the attached Appendix.</p> <p>Councillor Tim Kerley proposed delegating approval for the South Somerset District Council 2021/22 statement of accounts to the Executive Director Resources and Corporate Services in conjunction with the Chair or Vice-Chair, once any outstanding matters have been resolved which was seconded by Councillor Simon Coles.</p>

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		<p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to delegate approval for the South Somerset District Council 2021/22 statement of accounts to the Executive Director Resources and Corporate Services in conjunction with the Chair or Vice-Chair, once any outstanding matters have been resolved.</p> <p>Councillor Tim Kerley proposed the approval of the South Somerset District Council Letter of Representation 2021-22 subject to there being no material changes to the accounts which was seconded by Councillor Simon Coles.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to approve the South Somerset District Council Letter of Representation 2021-22 subject to there being are no material changes to the accounts.</p>
A9	External Audit Findings Report for Somerset West & Taunton 2022/23	<p>Councillor Mandy Chilcott proposed the amendments to the audit findings report for Somerset West & Taunton Council 2022/23 which was seconded by Councillor Mike Caswell.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to approve the Audit Findings Report for Somerset West & Taunton Council 2022/23 subject to the amendments.</p> <p>Councillor Andy Sully proposed delegating approval for the Somerset West & Taunton for 2022/23 statement of accounts to the Executive Director Resources and Corporate</p>

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		<p>Services in conjunction with the Chair or Vice-Chair, once any outstanding matters have been resolved which was seconded by Councillor Tim Kerley.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to delegate approval for the Somerset West & Taunton for 2022/23 statement of accounts to the Executive Director Resources and Corporate Services in conjunction with the Chair or Vice-Chair, once any outstanding matters have been resolved.</p> <p>Councillor Norman Cavill proposed the Somerset West & Taunton for 2022/23 Letter of Representation 2021-22 subject to there being no material changes to the accounts which was seconded by Councillor Andy Sully.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded the Audit Committee RESOLVED to approve the Somerset West & Taunton for 2022/23 Letter of Representation 2021-22 subject to there being are no material changes to the accounts.</p> <p>The Audit Committee noted the additional fees as set out in the attached appendix.</p>
A10	External Audit Update for Sedgemoor District Council 2021/22	The Audit Committee noted the verbal update for Sedgemoor District Council Statement of Accounts 2021/22 being signed on 31 st October 2023.
A11	Strategic Risk Management Update Report	The Audit Committee noted the Strategic Risk Management Update Report agreeing that the new Independent Member of the Audit Committee receive the new JCAD

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		system training.
A12	Audit Committee Work Plan to May 2024	<p>The Audit Committee noted the Workplan and RESOLVED:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hold an additional meeting in December • To manage the workload of the extremely heavy agenda in January and plan accordingly.