

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b> <b>26 APRIL 2022</b>
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## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2022 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE CHARLES DICKENS ROOM, BMI, MARGARET STREET, BIRMINGHAM**

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Grindrod in the Chair;

Councillors Bore, Bridle, Morrall, Quinnen and Tilsley

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### **NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

- 452 The Chair advised and the meeting noted that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's You Tube site ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6\\_5dnVnYlw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

**The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.**

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### **APOLOGIES**

- 453 Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Akhtar and Jenkins.
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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 454 There were no declarations of interest.
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## **MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 15 FEBRUARY 2022 AND 29 MARCH 2022**

- 455 The Committee agreed that an extraordinary meeting should be held in advance of the Annual City Council meeting so that the Value for Money Statement could be considered.

Committee Services would liaise with the Chair, Members and Officers to identify a suitable slot to facilitate the extraordinary meeting.

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meetings held on 15 February 2022 and 29 March 2022 were true and accurate records. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

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**RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

456 The following report of the Assistant Director Audit and Risk Management was submitted: -

(See document No.1)

Officers spoke to the report and responded to questions from Members of the Committee.

The Committee noted that there were currently no additional identified risks to the Council in relation to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Members noted the newly added risk in relation to air pollution.

The Committee noted that all identified risks were monitored on a regular basis. Any identified 'red' risks were of significant concern.

The Committee further noted that action plans were assigned to all identified risks to assist in the ongoing mitigation of these.

457 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Audit Committee:

- a) Noted the progress in implementing the Risk Management Framework and the assurance and oversight provided by the Council Leadership Team (CLT).
- b) Reviewed the strategic risks and assessed whether further explanation / information was required from risk owners in order to satisfy itself that the Risk Management Framework had been consistently applied.

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**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL – PROCUREMENT GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

458 The following report of the Assistant Director, Procurement was submitted: -

(See document No.2)

## **Audit Committee – 26 April 2022**

The Committee noted that elected Members from all Groups had been involved in the review of the procurement governance arrangements.

The Committee further noted that the internal audit team had undertaken a significant number of spot-checks to ensure that officers were following Council protocol in relation to procurement governance.

Members agreed that the correct structuring of the processes and procedures associated with procurement assisted in ensuring compliance.

The Committee noted the importance of benchmarking to ensure that performance in this area was regularly reviewed and analysed.

The Committee further noted that the scrutiny of the Council's group companies should be facilitated via reporting to the Committee at set intervals.

459 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Audit Committee:

a) Noted the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the recommendations as agreed and set out in Appendix 1.

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### **SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING MINUTES**

460 The following Schedule of Outstanding Minutes was submitted:-

(See document No.3)

461 The Committee noted that Outstanding Minute 433 was complete and would be discharged. The outstanding actions related to Minutes 377, 412 and 414 would be highlighted further so that responses could be provided to the Committee at a future date.

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### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

462 An extraordinary meeting would be scheduled to take place in advance of the 26 May Annual Council meeting so that the Committee could consider the 2020/21 Auditor's Annual Report.

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### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

463 None.

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**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

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**RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 1502 hours.

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CHAIR