

Notice of Audit and Governance Committee



Date: Thursday, 20 March 2025 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chair:

Cllr M Andrews

Vice Chair:

Cllr E Connolly

Cllr S Armstrong
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr P Broadhead

Cllr M Phipps
Cllr V Slade
Cllr M Tarling

Cllr C Weight

Independent persons:

Lindy Jansen-VanVuuren

Samantha Acton

All Members of the Audit and Governance Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5979>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Jill Holyoake on 01202 127564 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

12 March 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2025.

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5. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday on Friday 14 March 2025 [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Wednesday 19 March 2025 [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Thursday 6 March 2025 [10 working days before the meeting].

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Review of BCP FuturePlaces Limited

Following the Committee's debate on 28 November 2024, and 27 January 2025, the purpose of this report is to provide an overview of BCP FuturePlaces Limited from its inception to the most recent decision making relating to shareholder governance in so far as it relates to BCP Council.

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7. Carters Quay

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The Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 27 February 2025, requested an update on the ongoing work on the Carters Quay development as part of the Corporate Risk Register. This report provides an update in response to that request.

Please note: Should the Committee wish to discuss the detail of the exempt Appendix 2 the Committee will be asked to consider the following resolution in relation to that discussion:-

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information."

8. Risk Management - Corporate Risk Register Update

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This report updates councillors on the position of the Council's Corporate Risk Register. The main updates are as follows:

- All Corporate Risks were reviewed during the quarter.
- CR02 – We may fail to achieve appropriate outcomes and quality of service for children and young people including potential inadequate safeguarding. The update on this risk references the fact that Children's Social Care has had an Ofsted full ILACS inspection and has been rated Good.
- CR24 – We may fail to adequately address concerns around community safety and environmental impacts. The environmental impact elements of this risk have been separated.
- CR27 – We may fail to adequately address concerns around environmental impacts. This is a new risk added during the quarter.

Material updates for this quarter are outlined in sections 10.

9. Internal Audit - 4th Quarter, 2024/25, Audit Plan Update

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This report details progress made on delivery of the 2024/25 Audit Plan for 4th quarter.

NOTE – due to Committee dates, only January and February are included in the report. March 2025 will be included in the Q1 2025/26 progress report to Audit & Governance Committee in July.

The report highlights that:

- 4 audit assignments have been finalised, including 3 'Reasonable' audit opinions and 1 'Follow Up';
- 30 audit assignments are in progress, including 7 at draft report stage;
- Progress against the audit plan is on track and will be materially delivered to support the Chief Internal Auditor's annual audit opinion;
- There are no outstanding recommendations which require escalating to this Committee.

The Council Tax Single Person Discount pilot undertaken by Internal Audit has now been completed, resulting in a total yield of £672,733. This project is now being undertaken as 'business as usual' by the Income Maximisation and Compliance Team, who have achieved an addition council tax yield of £71,352 for the first three months.

10. Global Internal Audit Standards and Internal Audit Charter

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To comply with the new Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), the Application Note for the Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector and CIPFA's Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government, this report introduces the new Internal Audit Charter for BCP Council. The Internal Audit Charter has been completely revised in light of the new requirements and contains other key documents, such as the Internal Audit Strategy and the Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme.

This report also provides an overview of the GIAS, which comes into effect from 1 April 2025 and the action plan in place to ensure full conformance with the standards.

11. Internal Audit - Audit Plan 2025/26

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To comply with the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), and the Application Note / CIPFA's Code of Practice for the Governance of Internal Audit in UK Local Government, this report outlines the BCP Assurance Framework and the Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26.

The BCP Assurance Framework has been updated to indicate 'Member Oversight' of the assurance functions through the various committee meetings.

The final Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 has been produced. Completion of the plan will enable the Head of Audit & Management Assurance to provide an annual conclusion on the Councils' governance, risk management and control arrangements.

The allocated budget resource for 2025/26 is considered adequate to deliver the Internal Audit Charter and Audit Plan for 2025/26.

12. Forward Plan - Indicative for the 2025/26 municipal year

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This report sets out the indicative list of reports to be considered by the Audit & Governance Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year in order to enable it to fulfil its terms of reference.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chair decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.