



## **MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Held in Board Room 3, 4 and 5, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 24 February 2025 on the rising of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Chan (Chair) and Councillors Choudry, Kabir, Long, Molloy, J. Patel and L.Smith

**Also Present:** Councillor Mili Patel (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Reform), David Ewart (Independent Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee), Rhys Jarvis (Independent co-opted member Audit & Standards Advisory Committee), Sophia Brown & Asad Khan ( External Audit – Grant Thornton).

### **1. Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

Apologies for absence were received from Darren Armstrong (Deputy Director Organisational Assurance & Resilience).

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

### **3. Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations received at the meeting.

### **4. Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 12 June 2024.

### **5. External Audit Annual Report & Council's Statement of Accounts 2023-24**

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources providing an update on progress in finalising the Council's and Pension Fund Statement of Accounts for 2023-24.

Following consideration of the update provided at the preceding meeting of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, the Committee noted that whilst the external audit on the final Statement of Accounts being undertaken by Grant Thornton was subject to final completion no issues had been identified at this stage as likely to impact on the anticipated outcome of the audit, with the result still expected to be an unqualified audit opinion being issued.

Pending the anticipated completion of the final audit findings, the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee had agreed to recommend to the Audit & Standards Committee that the Statement of Accounts be approved subject to no other material changes being identified as required by the auditors and that approval of the draft

letters of representation be delegated to the Corporate Director Finance & Resources.

On the basis of the recommendations made at the preceding Audit & Standards Advisory Committee, it was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Audit and Standards Committee:

- (1) Note the draft audit opinions, as set out in Appendices B & D of the report.
- (2) Approve the final Statement of Accounts for 2023-24, subject to no material changes being required by the auditors.
- (3) Agree that approval of the draft letters of representation to Grant Thornton for the Council and Pension Fund be delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources, as set out in Appendices A & C of the report.
- (4) Authorise the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee to sign the final 2023-24 Statement of Accounts, subject to a written assurance being provided that all outstanding matters and adjustments contained in the Audit Findings Report had been made. If any material adjustments were required as a result of the final Audit Findings Report being issued, these would be reported back to the Committee and also sent to the Chair of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee. The Committee was advised that confirmation would also be provided for all members once final sign off of the Statement of Accounts had been completed.
- (5) Approve the audit fees for 2023-24 be approved, as detailed in section 3.2.7 of the report.

With no further recommendations to approve, the Chair formally thanked Sophia Brown and the Grant Thornton Team, as well as Minesh Patel, Ravinder Jassar and the Council's Finance team for their work in progressing completion of the audit and Statement of Accounts.

The meeting closed at 6.43 pm

COUNCILLOR JUMBO CHAN  
Chair