

	Full Council 21 September 2022
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources
Audit and Standards Advisory Committee – Vice Chairs Report	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance and Resources Tel: 020 8937 4043 Email: minesh.patel@brent.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the Council's Audit & Standards Advisory Committee (ASAC) and the Audit & Standards Committee (ASC) since the last update provided on 11 July 2022. The ASAC is responsible for considering and advising the relevant council bodies on various governance matters relating to audit activity, the council's regulatory framework, and members' standards of conduct. The ASC is responsible for various governance matters including reviewing and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts, adopting the council's Annual Governance Statement and promoting high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the contents of the report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The ASAC has met once since the last update. The ASC has not met since the last update.

3.2 **Audit & Standards Advisory Committee – 1st August 2022**

- 3.2.1 Standards Report (Including update on Gifts and Hospitality)

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on gifts and hospitality registered by members, and the attendance record for members in relation to mandatory training sessions.

The report also updated the Committee in respect of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) recommendations, the Council's response to those recommendations and the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review.

3.2.2 External Audit Progress Update

The Committee received and considered a verbal update from Grant Thornton, in terms of delivery of their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

3.2.3 Emergency Preparedness Update

At the January 2018 Audit Advisory Committee, it was resolved that an Emergency Preparedness item be added to the forward plan to be discussed annually going forward. This report briefly outlined the progress made since the 2021 report, detailing the type and number of incidents in Brent. It also provided information around initiatives and programmes of work under way to enhance the Council's resilience and response arrangements.

3.2.4 Internal Audit 2021-22 Annual Report – Addendum Report

The Committee received an addendum to the 2021-22 Annual Internal Audit Report, which was presented to the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee on 7th June 2022. The report provided an update in relation to the audit work that had been subsequently completed in accordance with the 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan.

The report also set out the arrangements for the Council's Internal Audit function undergoing an External Quality Assessment in Q3 2022-23.

3.2.5 Draft Statement of Accounts 2021-22

This report presented the Council's draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts to members of the Committee. The Committee was asked to note the Statement of Accounts submitted to the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton.

4. **Forward Plan Items**

4.1 Listed below are the reports that are due to be presented to the next Audit & Standards Advisory Committee meeting on 20 September 2022:

1. External Audit progress report
2. Standards Report
3. Complaints and Code of Conduct
4. Draft Statement of Accounts & External Auditor's Report

5. Annual Auditor's Report
6. Planning Code of Practice Review
7. Statement of Accounts
8. To review performance & management of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd
9. Emergency Preparedness update (short update from the previous meeting)

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel

Corporate Director of Finance and
Resources