



MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held in Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre on Monday 16 June 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 and Sebastian Evans (Independent co-opted member Audit & Standards Advisory Committee) and Sophia Brown and Asad Khan (Grant Thornton – External Auditor).

1. Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

There were no apologies for absence submitted at the meeting.

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 previous Committee held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 as a correct record.

5. Annual Governance Statement 2024-25

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Director of Finance & Resources detailing the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2024-25 as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Members noted that the AGS had been referred on to the Committee for formal approval following its detailed consideration at the preceding meeting of the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee. In considering the AGS the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee had identified the following amendments to be made:

- (1) review and amendment (as felt necessary) of reference to the key recommendations and improvement actions from External Audit VFM report for 23-24 in section 4.13.3 of the AGS;
- (2) review of section 5.4 relating to the Council's referral to the Regulator of Social Housing and data held on the Council's stock condition surveys.

- (3) confirmation being provided in paragraph 4.9.1 that the Audit & Standards Advisory Committee had met on 8 rather than 7 occasions during 2024-25.

On the basis of the discussion at the preceding Audit & Standards Advisory Committee and amendments identified above it was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2024-25 Annual Governance Statement for formal sign off.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm

COUNCILLOR JUMBO CHAN
Chair