

Audit and Standards Committee

Date and Time - **Monday 4 December 2023 – 6:30pm**

Venue - **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea**

Councillors appointed to the Committee:

B.J. Drayson (Chair), J. Barnes (MBE) (Vice-Chair), A.E. Biggs, Mrs V. Cook (ex-officio), P.J. Gray, A.P. Hayward, S.B. McGurk, C. Pearce and R.B. Thomas.

Audit Independent Person: Mr Patrick Farmer

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 2 October 2023 as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

To consider such other items as the Chair decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Head of Paid Service by 12 Noon on the day of the meeting.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the personal interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. Members are reminded of the need to repeat their declaration immediately prior to the commencement of the item in question.

PART A - STANDARDS REPORTS

5. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL OWNED ACCOMMODATION COMPLAINTS AND TENANT SATISFACTION REPORT (Pages 3 - 8)

6. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS MONITORING AND OTHER STANDARDS MATTERS (Pages 9 - 46)

7. DISPENSATION POLICY (Pages 47 - 52)

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For all enquiries – please contact louise.hollingsworth@rother.gov.uk (Tel: 01424 787815)

Rother District Council putting residents at the heart of everything we do.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (EXEMPT INFORMATION)

The following item includes material which is exempt from publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and it is recommended that the press and public be excluded. The relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A indicating the nature of the exempt information is stated after the item and is reproduced in full at the end of the agenda. In the circumstances of the case, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9. DISCONTINUANCE OF COMPLAINTS (PARAGRAPH 1) - TO FOLLOW

10. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS MONITORING AND OTHER STANDARDS MATTERS - APPENDIX 3 (PARAGRAPH 3) (Pages 53 - 56)

PART B - AUDIT REPORTS

11. REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS, GRANT THORNTON - ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 57 - 106)

12. REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS, GRANT THORNTON - AUDIT FINDINGS FOR ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL 2021/22 (Pages 107 - 146)

13. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22 (Pages 147 - 148)

14. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (Pages 149 - 174)

15. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 175 - 178)

Lorna Ford
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 24 November 2023

Extract from Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

1. Information relating to any individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Invitees in respect of Standards Related Reports only:

Independent Persons: Mr Robert Brown and Mrs Rose Durban.

Parish/Town Councillor Representative(s): Councillors Mrs W.M. Miers and K. Robertson