

Audit and Standards Committee

Date and Time - **Wednesday 28 February 2024 – 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 4 December 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 AND DISPENSATIONS

To receive any disclosures by Members of disclosable pecuniary interests / other registerable interests / non-registerable interests in matters on the agenda and the nature of any interest and details of any dispensations obtained. 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. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS MONITORING (Pages 3 - 12)

6. DEBATE NOT HATE: ENDING ABUSE IN PUBLIC LIFE FOR COUNCILLORS (Pages 13 - 62)

This agenda can be made available in large print, Braille, audiotape/CD or in another language upon request.

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.

PART B - AUDIT REPORTS

7. **REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR, GRANT THORNTON - AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2022/23 - TO FOLLOW**
8. **REVISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23** (Pages 63 - 66)
9. **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - FUNCTION OF THE LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** (Pages 67 - 70)
10. **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - PROCUREMENT AND VIREMENT THRESHOLDS** (Pages 71 - 74)
11. **HOMES ENGLAND 2023/24 COMPLIANCE AUDIT PROGRAMME** (Pages 75 - 80)
12. **WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 81 - 84)

Lorna Ford
Chief Executive

Agenda Despatch Date: 20 February 2024

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