



MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE AUDIT, PERFORMANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

Thursday, 26 October 2023

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

PRESENT

Mr Simon Bokor-Ingram, Mr Sean Coady, Ms Sonya Duncan, Councillor Scott Lawrence, Mr Derick Murray, Ms Deborah O'Shea, Mr Sandy Riddell, Councillor Ben Williams

APOLOGIES

Mr Stuart Falconer, Mr Graham Hilditch

IN ATTENDANCE

Public Sector Audit Director - Scotland, Grant Thornton UK LLP, Chief Internal Auditor, Provider Services Manager, Social Work Services Manager, Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer and Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer.

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Scott Lawrence.

2. Declaration of Member's Interests

The Committee noted there were no declarations of member's interests.

3. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Councillor Ben Williams to his first meeting of the Audit, Performance and Risk Committee who was replacing Councillor John Divers. The Committee joined the Chair in thanking Councillor Divers for all his work over the years in relation to the Committee and Moray Integration Joint Board.

4. Minutes of meeting of 31 August 2023

The minutes of the meeting of 31 August 2023 were submitted and approved.

5. Action Log of Meeting of 31 August 2023

The Action Log of the meeting of 31 August was discussed and updated accordingly.

6. Quarter 2 (July to September) Performance Report

The meeting had before it a report by the Corporate Manager advising the Committee that due to timetabling and data release conflicts, the Quarter 2 (July to September 2023) performance report will be presented to the Committee on 29 February 2024.

Mr Riddell, whilst acknowledging the timetabling issues, welcomed the detail in the report including examples of upstream initiatives and specifically the reference to the social care assessments test of change which has become business as usual.

The Chief Officer, adding to Mr Riddell's comments, provided an update regarding the Scottish Government announcement on funding relating to the NHS Scotland Winter Plan which had been published and provided an opportunity to bid for funding to expand hospital at home. A pan Grampian comprehensive and cohesive final bid is being prepared for submission by the end of the week. More detail will be provided to the Moray Integration Joint Board meeting at the end of November, by which time the outcome of the bid will be known, including whether any funding is recurring.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note:-

- i. the performance of local indicators for Quarter 2 (July to September 2023) will be presented at APR Committee in February 2024; and
- ii. the update on Unmet Need data.

7. Internal Audit Section Update Report

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Internal Auditor asking Committee to consider the contents of this report; seek clarification on any points noted and otherwise note the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the audit update.

8. Strategic Risk Register

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Officer providing an overview of the current strategic risks, along with a summary of actions which are in place to mitigate those risks, updated in October 2023.

In response to the Chair's query regarding what mechanism would be in place for risks/issues raised in the period between biannual updates, the Chief Officer agreed focussed updates on particular risk areas with the full register attached be presented to intervening Committee meetings.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i. note the updated Strategic Risk Register included in Appendix 1;

- ii. a change to the reporting schedule of the Strategic Risk Register, allowing to report biannually instead of quarterly with specific risk updates to be presented to intervening meetings. This will allow time for development, planning and improvement of the Register content; and
- iii. note that any significant changes to the register outwith the reporting cycle would be presented at the first opportunity.

9. External Auditors Report to Those Charged with Governance

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Financial Officer requesting the Committee consider the reports to those charged with governance from the Board's External Auditor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Mr Murray noted that the audit highlights the mounting financial sustainability challenges. The Chief Officer acknowledged the deficit related to a historical annual structural deficit pre covid with inflationary costs since and is now compounded with the huge pressures facing both funding partners, namely the NHS and Council.

In response to a query raised by the Chair regarding audit recommendation dates not being implemented, the Chief Internal Auditor advised there is a mechanism in place to follow up on recommendations which are reported to Committee, however appreciated the increasing demands on services which can result in slippages.

In response to the Chair raising whether NHS Grampian internal audit reports will be reported to this Committee, the Chief Internal Auditor advised work is ongoing to resolve the issue.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the reports from the External Auditor within Appendices 1 and 2.

10. 2022-23 Audited Annual Accounts

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Financial Officer submitting to Committee the Audited Annual Accounts for the year then ended 31 March 2023.

Mr Murray highlighted two grammatical errors, the first on page 142 and the second on page 152 which were noted and will be amended.

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking the Chief Financial Officer for the work undertaken preparing the accounts.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to approve the Audited Annual Accounts for the financial year 2022/23 and the letter of Representation.

11. Internal Audit Section Completed Projects Report

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Internal Auditor providing an update on audit work completed since the last meeting of the Committee.

Following consideration the Committee agree to note the audit update.

12. Update on Improvement Plan for Adult Social Care Commissioning

The meeting had before it a report by the Head of Service / Chief Social Work Officer updating the Committee of progress regarding the Improvement Plan for Adult Social Care Commissioning in line with the external review conducted by KPMG, finalised in February 2023 since the last Committee meeting on 31 August 2023.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:-

- i. approve the updated Improvement Plan attached at Appendix 1; and
- ii. note the progress within this report as at the end of September 2023 in relation to the recommendations detailed in the Improvement Plan.