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Contact: Democracy@welhat.gov.uk

20 June 2023

You are requested to attend a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE to be held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE

AGENDA PART1

1. <u>SUBSTITUTION OF MEMBERS</u>

To note any substitution of Committee members made in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

2. APOLOGIES

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 (previously circulated).

4. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 11

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

To note declarations of Members' disclosable pecuniary interests, non-disclosable pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PETITIONS

Up to thirty minutes will be available for questions from members of the public on issues relating to the work of the Committee and to receive any petitions.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT - QUARTER FOUR 2022/23 (Pages 5 - 18)

Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) on the current strategic risks facing the Council as determined by the Corporate Management Team. These risks have been reviewed in place for Quarter Four.

8. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 (Pages 19 - 46)

Report of the Chief Executive on the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the financial year 2022/23.

9. WHBC SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (SIAS) PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 47 - 70)

Report of the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) which provides details on the progress made by the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) in delivering the Council's Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 as at 12 June 2023.

10. WHBC SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (SIAS) - ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 71 - 98)

Report of the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) on the overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's framework of governance, risk management and control.

SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, IS OF 11. SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

12. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee is asked to resolve:

That under Section 100(A) (2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for item 13 (if any) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A (3) and Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act as amended.

In resolving to exclude the public in respect of the exempt information, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART II

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN EXEMPT NATURE AT THE DISCRETION OF 13. THE CHAIR

Circulation: Councillors D.Panter (Chair) N.Pace

C.Watson (Vice-Chairman) R.Platt

J.Boulton

Senior Leadership Team Press and Public (except Part II Items)

If you require any further information about this Agenda please contact Governance Service by email - democracy@welhat.gov.uk