



The Gateshead Housing Company

Working with Gateshead Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE

24 January 2019

PRESENT:

Directors

Helen Hall (In Chair)
George Clark

Advisers

Neil Bouch	Interim Managing Director
Michael Crinnion	Head of Commercial Services
Scott Straughan	Head of Planned Investment and Cyclical
Martin Roberts	Asbestos Co-ordinator
Craig Oakes	Chief Internal Auditor, Gateshead Council
Lynsey Dawson	Senior Audit and Risk Officer, Gateshead Council
Stuart Gibson	Governance and Risk Lead

Apologies

Robert Buckley
Brenda Clelland
Mick Davison
Leigh Kirton

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 18 October 2018 were approved as a correct record.

2 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The committee, at its meeting on 18 October 2018, agreed the updated Strategic Risks. However, the risks still needed to be scored and the detail updated for each of them.

This exercise had now been completed and the updated Strategic Risk Register was submitted.

RESOLVED – That the Board be recommended to approve the updated Strategic Risk Register, subject to the following amendments: -

- SR1: Impact on rents of universal credit and welfare reform – An additional control around Alternative Payment Arrangements (APAs) being available for claimants who cannot manage the standard Universal Credit payment.

- SR2: Failure to deliver business model due to future government policy – An additional control around annual monitoring of business plan (which is currently projecting that the minimum balance will be reached by 2025/26)
- SR4: Failure to adapt to the housing & support needs – Further explanation of control relating to medical awards.

3 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2019/20 – 2021/22

A three-year risk-based Internal Audit Plan was agreed by Committee on 25 April 2018. This formed the basis of the annual review with the Internal Audit Plan being rolled forward for an additional year and assessed against agreed factors by the Chief Internal Auditor:

To support the annual review, the Chief Internal Auditor also consulted with senior managers to ensure all significant changes or risks to the organisation had been identified and included within the scope of the Internal Audit Plan. To strengthen the annual review of the Internal Audit Plan, it was agreed that the draft plan would be shared with the committee prior to discussions taking place with senior managers as the start of the planning process.

The draft Audit Plan 2019/20–2021/22 was submitted.

The committee welcomed the addition of compliance to the draft plan but also asked how important it was to continue to audit the lower risks, particularly those that were not currently linked to Strategic Risk Register. It was agreed that this could be considered during the planning process.

RESOLVED – That the draft Internal Audit Plan 2019/20 – 2021/22 be agreed as the basis for starting the planning process and discussing with senior managers.

4 2018/19 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

Progress made by the Internal Audit Service against the audit plan for the financial year 2018/19 was reported. To date, 10 final reports had been issued and seven audits were in progress.

The Internal Audit Service was confident that all the outstanding audits would be completed before the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED – That progress to date with the 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan be noted.

5 FORWARD PLAN

A forward plan of reports which would be presented to this committee during the next year was submitted.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be noted.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee would be held on Wednesday, 24 April 2019 at 10am in Room S21, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead.

7 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with Category 4 of the company's Access to Information Rules.