



AGENDA FOR THE AUDIT COMMITTEE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (ADVISORY)

Members of the Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) are summoned to a meeting, which will be held in Committee Room 1 at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **15 November 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
Tel : 020 7527 3005
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 7 November 2022

Membership

Councillor Nick Wayne (Chair)
Councillor Flora Williamson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janet Burgess MBE
Councillor Sara Hyde

Alan Begg (Independent Member)
Alan Finch (Independent Member)

Substitute Members

Councillor Satnam Gill OBE
Councillor Angelo Weekes

Quorum: is 3 Councillors



A.	Formal Matters	Page
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declaration of substitute members	
3.	Declarations of interest	
	<p>If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ if it is not yet on the council's register, you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent; ▪ you may choose to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency. <p>In both the above cases, you must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.</p> <p>If you have a personal interest in an item of business and you intend to speak or vote on the item you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you may participate in the discussion and vote on the item.</p> <p>*(a) Employment, etc - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.</p> <p>(b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.</p> <p>(c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.</p> <p>(d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.</p> <p>(e) Licences - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.</p> <p>(f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.</p> <p>(g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.</p> <p>This applies to all members present at the meeting.</p>	
4.	Minutes of previous meeting	1 - 6
B.	Items for Decision	
1.	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Finsbury Park Ward	7 - 12

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 2. | The Council's use of investigatory powers | 13 - 18 |
| 3. | Annual standards and members' conduct report | 19 - 24 |
| 4. | Update on the Local Authority External Audit Market and appointment of External Auditors from 2023 | 25 - 34 |

C. Urgent non-exempt items

Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

D. Exclusion of press and public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining item on the agenda, it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of the Access to Information procedure rules in the Constitution and, if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.

E. Confidential/exempt items

F. Urgent exempt items (if any)

Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

The next meeting of the Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) will be on
30 January 2023

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London Borough of Islington

Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) - 13 September 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee and Audit Committee (Advisory) held at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 13 September 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Nick Wayne (Chair), Flora Williamson (Vice-Chair), Janet Burgess MBE and Sara Hyde

Independent members: Alan Begg and Alan Finch

Also Present: Councillors Jenny Kay (for Item B1 only) and Diarmaid Ward

Councillor Nick Wayne in the chair

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

None.

14 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

17 APPOINTMENTS TO PENSIONS BOARD (Item A5)

RESOLVED:

That Mike Calvert be appointed as a scheme member representative and Maggie Elliott as an employer representative to the Pensions Board, each for a period of three years.

18 REVIEW OF AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE (Item A6)

The following points were noted during discussion:

- The current structure comprised two Committees: the Audit Committee and the Audit Advisory Committee. Under the current structure, the two Independent Members had voting rights on all advisory matters considered at

the meeting of the Committees. The proposal that there be one Committee, to be known as the "Audit and Governance Committee" would help to simplify matters. However, the view was that the inclusion of the word "Risk" in the new title of the Committee would better reflect its work

- On the question of whether the Independent Members on the Committee should be entitled to vote, the Committee Services Manager reported that a survey across a number of other London boroughs whose membership included Independent Members, indicated that the position was that they were not entitled to vote.
- Under the new arrangements, the two Independent Members would be able to vote on the "Monitoring Functions" listed in the revised Terms of Reference.
- The Committee acknowledged the value in which the advice of the Independent Members was held

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the word "Risk" be included in the new title of the Committee.
- (b) That all instances of the word "Our" in the proposed new Terms of Reference be replaced with the article "The"
- (c) That, subject to the incorporation of the suggested amendments above, the proposed amendments to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference, detailed in the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, be noted.
- (d) That it be noted that any amendments would require formal approval at a future Council meeting.
- (e) That, before the final report is submitted to Council, the updated Terms of Reference be circulated to members of the Committee for further review and approval
- (f) That it be noted that the Committee's future work plan would be reviewed by officers and the Chair to ensure that all aspects of the Terms of Reference were appropriately represented.
- (g) That it be noted that the Terms of Reference of the Pensions Sub-Committee and Personnel Sub-Committee would also be reviewed and submitted to a future meeting for consideration.

19

RISK DEEP-DIVE: VOLATILITY IN THE ENERGY MARKET (Item B1)

The Corporate Director Environment, the Energy Sustainability and Consulting Manager and the Head of Economic Development Projects and Transport Planning, attended to discuss the risk management strategy for the principal risk of "Volatility in the energy market".

The following points were noted during discussion:

- The Council currently purchased its energy directly from the market via a contract with SSE. Prior to the current energy contract being awarded in 2020, a procurement strategy was approved by Executive in January 2019, which considered the options of continuing to buy directly (via a contract) or to purchase energy via a Public Buying Organisation (PBO). However, the decision was to continue buying in-house due to a range of factors, including

- the flexibility offered and the lack of control over timing of purchasing and fees that using a PBO would incur.
- The Council later procured an energy supply contract with SSE for the 2020–2024 period. The contract was not for supply at a specified price but allowed the Council to purchase through SSE via trades at the time of its choosing. The Council could purchase an entire year's supply in a single trade but could also purchase for longer or shorter periods. The Council was able to make a trade for a full year ahead at some point prior to the start of the financial year, to give budget certainty, with the aim being to purchase during a dip in prices.
 - Whilst the energy market was stable, the strategy on purchasing energy worked well. However, increasing prices and significant volatility from September 2021 onwards meant that the approach of waiting for prices to dip was not possible prior to the start of the 2022/23 financial year. With a view to mitigating costs for this and future years, a first priority was identified as fixing prices and reducing costs for 2022/23, while the second was to reduce exposure to future price rises
 - An energy consultancy firm had been appointed to advise the Council on energy purchasing and a risk management strategy was produced to advise the Council on the timing of making trades in order to hedge against future increases in energy and to take advantage of rises and falls in the markets. Market prices were monitored on a daily basis.
 - With a view to reducing energy consumption across the Council, webinars were held for site managers to inform them on how to reduce energy use
 - On mitigating costs for 2023/24, the possibility of joining a Public Buying Organisation (PBO) was considered, alongside the mutual termination of the contract with SSE in order to join a PBO for up to two years. There could be a reduction in costs to the Council of over £10m
 - Members suggested that, although it was not possible to control the energy market, it should be possible for the Council to control energy costs. For example, in the medium term, would it be possible to look at communal heating and windows in buildings such as the Town Hall? The Energy Sustainability and Consulting Manager responded that Housing Services were looking at systems to achieve this, including systems sensitive to outdoor temperatures and work with UCL on insulation and retro-fitting of buildings. They were also looking at decarbonisation of buildings. As long as funding was in the energy budget for these items for future years, it would be retained.
 - This financial year's budget had been set months ago, when the £30m extra cost pressure for energy was not expected. It was noted that the General Fund reserve would cover energy pressure costs this year. There was likely to be additional pressure next year, but officers were anticipating being able to achieve a balanced budget for next year.
 - In response to a question about any anticipated risks or urgent steps needing to be taken to protect schools, the HRA or leisure, the Corporate Director Resources said that the Council was hoping to hear from the Government on financial assistance with costs. Schools' budgets were being closely

monitored by Children's Services who were also advising them on their budgets and reducing energy consumption.

He anticipated increased costs for 2023/24 and a cap on energy risk.

- In response to a question from Members about measuring value for money from the energy consultants, it was reported that the Council monitored energy prices daily and deferred to them on making trades. The Council's contract with the energy consultants was for six months and the Council hoped to join a new provider, together with other local authorities
- There were safety issues associated with buildings and many people felt safer in public buildings when the lighting was on. It was noted that buildings would be lit differently in the future
- The costs associated with insulation of homes etc was not yet known as this work had not yet been progressed, due to the need for planning permission. Funding bids would be made to the public sector decarbonisation scheme for the retro-fitting work and insulation works.
- The Energy Risk Management Committee, comprising four Energy Services Managers, would not be required once the Council had joined a PBO
- A question was asked whether any consideration had been given to the Council joining an Energy Consortium at an earlier stage, given that energy risks had already been identified in the Principal Risk report. Officers replied that it had been considered and one consortium had turned the Council down as they had no capacity for the Council to purchase energy. The Council approached SSE in August about the possibility of pulling out of the contract with them
- Looking forward, Members asked whether there was a likelihood of a school or leisure provider not being able to pay energy costs? Officers reported that the situation with leisure providers was being closely monitored as energy costs would be a significant pressure on their revenue costs. Schools had been in a challenging budget situation even prior to the energy crisis. Children's Services were looking at whether there was over-provision of places and it would be important to have a strategic view of how schools were to be sustainable in the longer term. It was anticipated that a Government announcement on funding would help the Council in the short term.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the report of the Corporate Director of Environment detailing the risk management strategy for the principal risk "Volatility in the energy market" be noted.

(b) That the Corporate Director Environment, the Energy Sustainability and Consulting Manager and the Head of Economic Development Projects and Transport Planning, be thanked for their attendance at this meeting.

20

INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 (Item B2)

In response to questions from Members of the Committee as to whether Internal Audit was satisfied that responses to "limited assurance" to follow-up outcomes in Appendix 3 of the report were being taken seriously, the Audit Manager confirmed

that a couple of the actions had been completed in the past month and that there were no particular areas of concern related to the actions in the Appendix.

Although the Audit Manager reported that there were no issues associated with the red-rated actions in Appendix 1 of the report and that dates for follow-ups had not yet been set, Members of the Committee suggested that it would have been helpful to have follow up information on each of those actions.

A suggestion was made that the Controls Board could refer particular areas of concern to the Committee for a deep dive review, if it was considered appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, detailing the outcomes of the delivery of the 2021/22 Audit Plan, be noted.

21 ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 21/22 (Item B3)

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In view of the fact that the Committee were to discuss the exempt appendices alongside their accompanying non-exempt reports in respect of agenda items B3 and B4, it was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following items as the presence of members of the public and press would result in the disclosure of exempt information within the terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, for the reasons indicated:

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reasons for exemption</u>
<u>Agenda item F1</u>	2021-22 Annual Fraud Report - exempt appendix	Categories 1, 2 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972
<u>Agenda item F2</u>	Bi-annual Whistleblowing Monitoring Report – 1 February 2022 to 31 July 2022 - exempt appendix	Categories 2, 3 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

RESOLVED:

(a) That the contents of the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, detailing the work undertaken by Internal Audit (Investigations), Housing Investigations and Parking Investigations on their counter-fraud activities, be noted.

- (b) That the mitigations taken to ensure that certain breaches/frauds do not happen in the future, detailed in the exempt appendix to the report, be noted.
- (c) That the contents of the accompanying exempt appendix at agenda item F1 be noted.

22 BI-ANNUAL WHISTLEBLOWING MONITORING REPORT – 1 MARCH 2022 TO 31 JULY 2022 (Item B4)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, detailing the bi-annual whistleblowing monitoring arrangements, be noted.
- (b) That a mechanism be established to report to members (possibly the Executive or the Audit Committee as part of the regular Whistleblowing Monitoring report) significant findings against the Council in Employment Tribunals and any settlements in excess of £50,000.
- (c) That the contents of the accompanying exempt appendix at agenda item F2 be noted.

23 SETTLEMENT PROTOCOL: EMPLOYMENT DISPUTES (Item B5)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the "Statutory Guidance in the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England" (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities), appended to the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, be noted.
- (b) That the Council's "Settlement Protocol: Employment Disputes", also appended to the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, be approved.

24 ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 21/22 - EXEMPT APPENDIX (Item F1)

Noted.

25 BI-ANNUAL WHISTLEBLOWING MONITORING REPORT – 1ST MARCH 2022 TO 31ST JULY 2022 - EXEMPT ITEM (Item F2)

Noted.

26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of Audit Manager (Investigations)

Although not present at this meeting, on behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Holly Braisher on her appointment as the Council's new Audit Manager, with effect from 1 September 2022.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

CHAIR

**Electoral Services
Islington Town Hall
Upper Street
N1 2UD**

Report of: (Acting) Returning Officer

Meeting of:

Date:

Ward(s):

Audit

15 November

Finsbury Park

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt	
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SUBJECT: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – Final Report

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed changes to polling districts and polling places in Finsbury Park ward.
- 1.2 This change will take effect with the publication of the revised Register of Electors on 1 December 2022 and for all elections for four years thereafter.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the changes set out in the report in relation to Finsbury Park ward
- 2.2 To note the comments/representations received by Councillors and residents

3. Background

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The last compulsory review had to be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 inclusive.
- 3.2 In 2019 the Local Government Boundary Commission reviewed all the wards within the London Borough of Islington and concluded that the number of wards should increase from 16 to 17 wards.
- 3.3 These changes resulted in the need to undertake a review for all the polling districts and polling places in the borough and these changes then came into effect in May 2022.
- 3.4 The steps required for the review have been undertaken, including publication of the proposals and consultation on them. The Returning Officer will seek approval from the Audit Committee of the Council, which has delegated powers to designate polling places, at a meeting of the committee on 15 November 2022.

Proposed polling districts and polling stations

3.5 Finsbury Park ward

Following the review by the Boundary Commission, Finsbury Park ward saw significant change with almost all of one district moving to Tollington ward and almost half of a district from Highbury West ward moving into Finsbury Park. As the polling stations in NFPB and NFPC are relatively small venues with high electorate levels the decision was made to move the properties moving from Highbury West ward into NFPA.

Existing Polling Places for Finsbury Park ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NFPA	Pakeman School, Pakeman Street, London, N7 6DU	2
NFPB	New Life Centre, 8-10 Lennox Road, London, N4 3NW	2
NFPC	Andover Estate Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1

3.6 Proposed Changes

It is proposed that a new polling district is created within Finsbury Park to accommodate those residents living in properties that moved into Finsbury Park from Highbury West ward as part of the review undertaken by the Boundary Commission. The proposed venue for the new district is near the effected roads and is a public library so it will be ideal in terms of awareness of the new location. The new venue was visited and assessed in August 2022 and is entirely suitable for polling, has level access throughout and all the necessary facilities.

Proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Places for Finsbury Park ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NFPA	Pakeman School, Pakeman Street, London, N7 6DU	2
NFPB	New Life Centre, 8-10 Lennox Road, London, N4 3NW	2
NFPC	Andover Estate Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1
NFPD	N4 Library, 26 Blackstock Road, Finsbury Park, London, N4 2DW	1

Representations

Four comments/Representations have been received as a result of the Review Consultation. All four representations are in support of the proposed changes and excerpts are included below.

Email from Cllr Shaikh 22 September 2022

“I fully support the recommendation to have a new additional polling station that will service the new streets that came into Finsbury Park ward from the former Highbury West ward.”

Email from Councillor Heather 23 September 2022

“Thank you so much. This new polling district in the Finsbury Park Ward, and the polling station in it at the N4 Library, is just what is required.”

Email from resident 27 September 2022

“Thank you for the update on this. I 100% support adding an additional polling station at the N4 Library. This is a great idea and will really reduce the time taken to vote for folks like me who live on the other side of the railway line to Pakeman School.”

Email from resident 17 October 2022

“I am writing to support Islington’s Council’s proposal for a polling station to serve the part of the borough that has been moved (as far as I know without consultation) from the former Highbury West ward to Finsbury Park ward.”

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The costs of the polling districts and polling places review will be met from within existing budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The Representation of the People Act 1983 section 18B requires that local authorities designate the polling places within their Parliamentary constituencies. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, Returning Officers have the right to use certain public buildings (including schools that receive public funds) for use as polling stations at elections.

Section 18B (4) of the RPA 1983 states that in conducting a review of polling places the authority must:

(a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances

(b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

In addition, the polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area either wholly or partly outside of the polling district.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

No implications

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

Electoral Services considered a review of all possible polling places and used a suitability and access checklist. This was drawn largely from the recommendations in Scope's Poll Report 4 published following the 2005 General Election. One checklist has been completed for each existing poll place and all proposed new polling places.

All polling staff receives equalities training as part of the induction for working on the election.

5. Reason for recommendations


- 5.1 In the lead up to and following the Local elections in May 2022 we received several complaints regarding the distance between those properties that had moved into the ward from Highbury West and the polling station in NFPA. The recommendations take on board the comments made by residents living in the effected streets and ensure that the polling station is within walking distance and accessible.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Map of Finsbury Park Ward with new polling districts set out

Background papers: None.

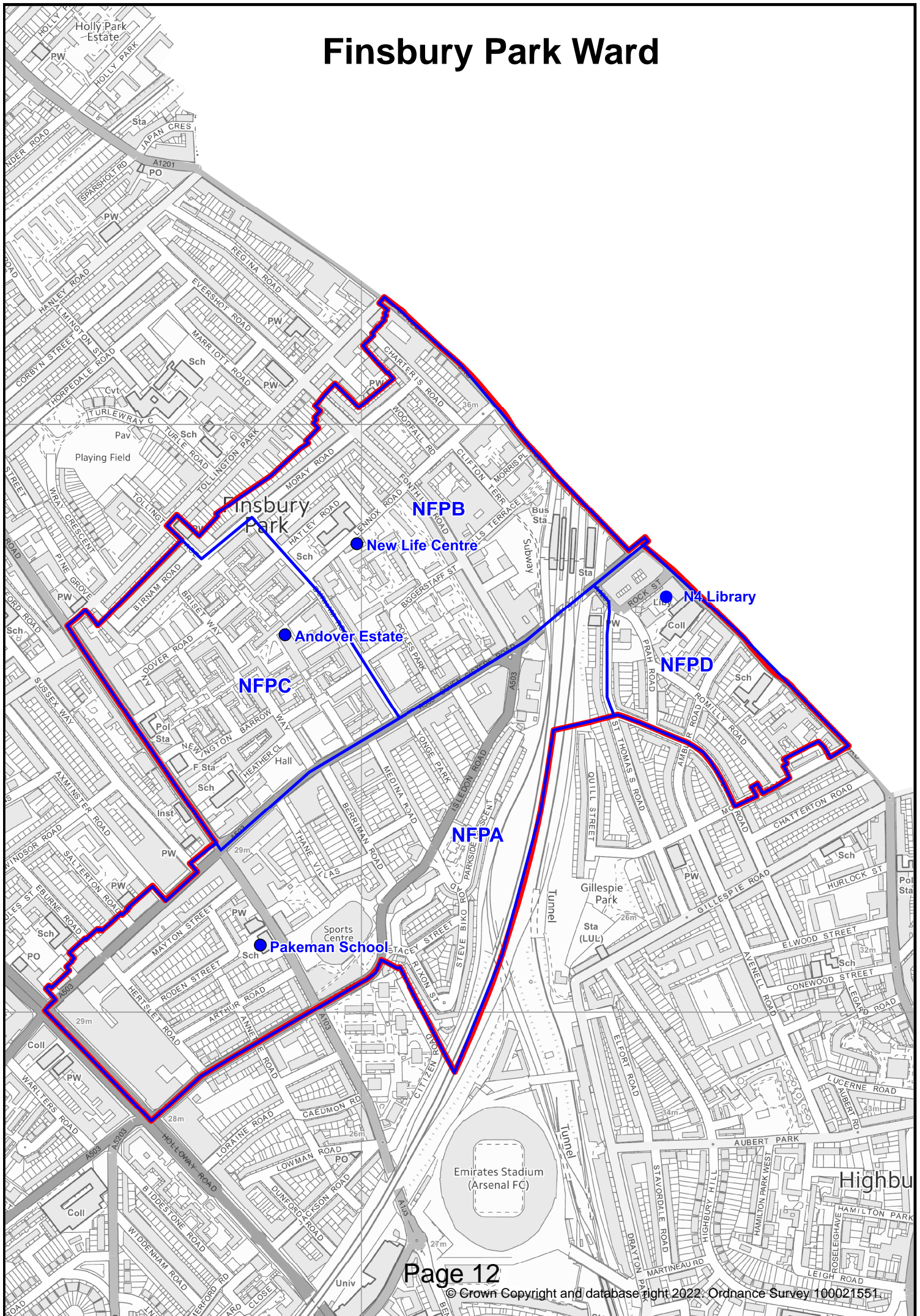
Final report clearance:

Signed by:		Peter Fehler Director of Law and Governance
	Director of Law and Governance	Date: 25 October 2022

Report Author:	Kerry Wickens
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Legal Implications Author:	Peter Fehler
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Finsbury Park Ward



Resources

7 Newington Barrow Way

London N7 7EP

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of: Audit Committee

Date: 15 November 2022

Ward(s): None

Subject: The council's use of investigatory powers

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The report updates the Committee on the council's use of investigatory powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA"). The report also provides an update on recent developments in the council's arrangements to ensure compliance with the provisions of RIPA.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the level of directed surveillance undertaken by the council.
- 2.2. To note the recent developments in the council's arrangements to ensure compliance with the provisions of RIPA.

3. Background

- 3.1 RIPA provides a statutory framework regulating the use of directed surveillance and the conduct of covert human intelligence sources (informants or undercover officers) by public authorities. RIPA requires public authorities, including local authorities, to use covert investigation techniques in a way that is necessary, proportionate and compatible with human rights.

- 3.2 Directed surveillance is covert surveillance conducted for the purposes of a specific investigation or operation that is likely to result in the obtaining of private information about a person. Private information includes any aspect of a person's private or personal relationship with others, including family and professional or business relationships. Whilst a person may have a reduced expectation of privacy when in a public place, covert surveillance of that person's activities in public may still result in the obtaining of private information.
- 3.3 The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 ("IPA") governs the lawful obtaining of communications data by public authorities. Communications data is generated in the provision, delivery and maintenance of postal or telecommunications services but does not include the content of the communication.
- 3.4 The council can only undertake covert surveillance under RIPA if the proposed operation is authorised by one of the council's authorising officers and subsequently approved by a magistrate. The council's communications data requests must be authorised by the Office for Communications Data Authorisations.
- 3.5 The Investigatory Powers Commissioner ("the IPC") has responsibility for oversight of investigatory powers used under RIPA. A remote inspection was conducted in 2020 by telephone interview & desktop evaluation. Following completion of the inspection, the IPC issued a report on 5 June 2020. The IPC also issued a data assurance letter regarding data handling and retention safeguards relating to data obtained under RIPA.
- 3.6 An action plan was drawn up which was brought to Audit Committee on 28 July 2020. An update on the action plan was brought to Audit Committee on 27 July 2021.

4. The action plan

- 4.1 The actions 1a – 7 set out in the action plan have been completed. Actions 2 and 4c are ongoing and these actions will be kept under review.

Number	Action
Action 1a	To draw up a 'non-RIPA' policy for sign off by the Senior Responsible Officer for inclusion in the council's RIPA policy & covert surveillance procedural notes.
Action 1b	When the 'non-RIPA' policy is signed off the RIPA Co-ordinating Officer to provide a briefing note for officers.
Action 2	Senior Responsible Officer and RIPA Co-ordinating Officer to keep training requirements across the council under 6 monthly review.

Action 3a	The IG Team review the policy and guidance for staff regarding sharing of data obtained under a RIPA authorisation, with a specific focus on only providing the data that is necessary.
Action 3b	The retention schedule is updated so that RIPA and IPA is included and clearly defined.
Action 4a	Data mapping to be completed for the flow of data resulting from a RIPA or IPA authorisation, identifying where it is stored.
Action 4b	Following the data mapping exercise (i) Head of Information Governance and Data Protection Officer to provide guidance/recommendations where data should be stored (ii) Service Areas to apply storage guidance/recommendations & agreed retention.
Action 4c	Audits are periodically undertaken to ensure that staff are complying with the agreed processes for managing RIPA and IPA data.
Action 5	When the data mapping exercise is completed, authorising officers to be provided with briefing.
Action 6	Briefing to be prepared for investigating officers and authorising officers regarding information to be included in RIPA and IPA authorisation requests regarding retention and disposal of the data obtained.
Action 7	Commence a full review of previous authorisations. Identify all locations that data is stored and (where retention has been exceeded) securely destroy the data. Data that is still within retention should be stored in the agreed location and have the agreed retention period applied.

5. Recent developments

- 5.1 The council has appointed a new Senior Responsible Officer for RIPA and new authorising officers.
- 5.2 Training has been provided for officers across the council on the non-RIPA policy and the new authorising officers have been provided with relevant RIPA training.

6. Authorisation of covert surveillance

- 6.1 During this financial year since 1 April 2022, the council has not authorised any directed surveillance.
- 6.2 For the previous financial year (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022) the council authorised one application for directed surveillance. However, the investigating officer decided not to seek judicial approval and other less intrusive lines of enquiry were implemented.
- 6.3 The council has not authorised the use of a covert human intelligence source since October 2010.
- 6.4 The council's use of RIPA to carry out directed surveillance has reduced in recent years. The number of times the council has obtained approval for directed surveillance is set out below:
- 2017/18 – 1
 - 2018/19 – 6
 - 2019/20 – 4
 - 2020/21 - 0

7. Implications

7.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Robust anti-fraud activity is an integral part of the council's strategy for safeguarding its assets and maximising its use of resources. The use of investigatory surveillance is one of the tools the council uses to achieve these aims.

7.2 Legal Implications

RIPA was introduced to ensure that covert surveillance undertaken by public authorities is undertaken in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.

The council can only undertake covert surveillance under RIPA if the proposed operation is authorised by one of the council's authorising officers and subsequently

approved by a magistrate. The council can only use directed surveillance if it is necessary to prevent or detect criminal offences, which attract a custodial sentence of six months or more or criminal offences relating to the underage sale of alcohol or tobacco. The authorising officer must also be satisfied that the proposed directed surveillance is proportionate to what is sought to be achieved.

The council is complying with the legal requirements of RIPA and the Home Office codes of practice. The data obtained under RIPA and IPA is subject to obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the action plan has promoted the council's compliance.

7.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

There are no known environmental implications.

7.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required because it is not relevant to this report.

8. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

The council is managing its covert activities in accordance with RIPA and Home Office codes of practice.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Corporate Director of Resources

Date: 31 October 2022

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Resources Department
7 Newington Barrow Way
London N7 7EP

Report of: The Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Meeting of: Audit Committee

Date: 15 November 2022

Ward(s): All

Subject: Annual Report on Member Standards and Conduct

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The councillor's role is a vital part of our democracy, helping to ensure that the Council remains focussed on its residents and communities and makes the best possible decisions on their behalf. It is vitally important that councillors meet public expectations of conduct, are effectively supported in their role and equipped to undertake it successfully.
- 1.2. To ensure that the trust residents have in the council continues, councillors must demonstrate high standards of conduct, make well informed and appropriate decisions, engage positively in development opportunities and be held accountable if their conduct fails to reach the high standards required.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Audit Committee Terms of Reference, the Monitoring Officer is required to submit to the committee an annual report concerning standards of member conduct, including a summary of complaints received under the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure and their outcome. The complaints received in the municipal year 2021-22 are detailed below. This report also includes information on member training and development and declarations of interest.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To note the contents of this report.

3. Background

Member training and development

- 3.1. There were by-elections in four wards in May 2021 and a further by-election in Tollington Ward in June 2021 and a full member induction and development programme, which was open to all councillors, was undertaken. The training included sessions on civil emergencies, data protection, managing casework and presentations on the work of each department. Training on Securing Social Value was also held later in the year.
- 3.2. A Member Development Manager was appointed in September 2021 and started in post in December. The Member Development Manager initially focused on arrangements for extensive member induction to follow the local election in May 2022 and has established a Member Learning and Development Steering Group.
- 3.3. There is a small budget available for external training and conference attendance, which is divided between the Executive and backbench members to ensure it is fairly allocated. Training and development events attended in 2021-22, included Leadership Essentials training, Leadership of Place training, Media training, Advanced Chairing Skills training, an event on improving domestic energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty and LGA Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Councillors Development events and one member is participating in the Future Vision Programme.
- 3.4. Information about free of charge and subsidised development opportunities, provided by London Councils and the Local Government Association, was regularly circulated to Members and the political group office.
- 3.5. Members were also provided with specific advice on governance issues from time to time, including advice regarding declarations of interest and information governance.

Financial Declarations

- 3.6. Members reviewed, confirmed and where necessary, updated, their register of interests, including their financial declarations, in March 2022. The Members Register of Interests is available on the Council's democracy website.
- 3.7. The Members interests, declarations of interest made at meetings, declarations regarding gifts and hospitality and the councillors' attendance record at committee meetings are all available on the Council's democracy website.

Complaints

3.8. All complaints under the Members Code of Conduct are referred to the Monitoring Officer (the Director of Law and Governance). Following consideration of the complaint, the Monitoring Officer decides whether it is appropriate to seek an informal resolution. Where there is no informal resolution, the Monitoring Officer may:

- decide not to investigate further,
- decide that the matter requires investigation.
- decide to refer the decision as to whether or not there is to be an investigation to the Standards Committee.

3.9 No formal complaints, which required the Standards Committee to be convened were received against Members during 2021-22, although some issues have been raised which have not reached that stage, as follows:

	Complainant	Topic	Formal complaint	Outcome
1	Member of the public	That a councillor had blocked him on their personal Twitter account.	N	The complainant did not proceed with a formal complaint.
2	Member of the public	That a councillor encouraged them to breach the General Data Protection Regulations	N	The complainant did not proceed with a formal complaint.
3	Councillor	That a councillor made a defamatory statement about another councillor during a Council meeting.	Y	An initial investigation was undertaken which recommended that the Monitoring Officer exercise discretion and the complaint was not referred to the Standards Committee because it could reasonably be construed that the councillor legitimately exercised their freedom of expression under Article 10 ECHR and that, within the context of political debate in the Council Chamber, the councillor's comments

				attracted the enhanced protection afforded to political speech and debate.
4	Member of the public	That a councillor failed to act on information supplied regarding systematic abuse of children and staff by Islington social care managers and others.	Y	The complainant did not respond to requests for information necessary to undertake an initial assessment of their complaint.
5	Member of the public	That a councillor mocked a petition submitted to a Council meeting and belittled the member of the public presenting it.	N	The complainant did not proceed with a formal complaint.
6	Member of the public	That a councillor mocked a petition submitted to a Council meeting and was inconsiderate, inappropriate and condescending.	N	The complainant did not proceed with a formal complaint.
7	Member of staff	That a councillor failed to provide information requested.	Y	The complaint did not fall within the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct.
8	Three Members of the public	That a councillor canvassed inappropriately.	Y	The complaint did not fall within the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct.
9	Two Members of the public	That a councillor canvassed inappropriately.	Y	The complaint did not fall within the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

- 4.1.1. The Council spent £15,156 on training courses and development opportunities for councillors in the 2021/22 financial year. The costs relating to Member Induction following the election on 5 May 2022 fall into the 2022/23 financial year and will be included in the next annual report. The Council has increased the budget for member training and development for future years as part of its commitment to support councillors in undertaking their vital role.

4.2. Legal Implications

- 4.2.1. The Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members (section 27(1) Localism Act 2011). The Council has adopted a Code dealing with the conduct that is expected of Members and Co-opted Members when they are acting in that capacity (as required by section 27(2) Localism Act 2011). The Code has been revised to incorporate the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020.

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 4.3.1. There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required, because there are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. Audit Committee is asked to note the content of this report to maintain an overview of member conduct.

Appendices: None.

Background papers: None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Feltham', written in a cursive style.

Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Date: 28 October 2022

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Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Audit Committee	15 November 2022		All

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Update on the Local Authority External Audit Market & Appointment of External Auditors from 2023

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. On the 16th December 2021, the Government published information on a new package of measures to support the improved timeliness of local audit. This set out the background to the deterioration in performance in hitting audit deadlines by local bodies and a series of actions which are designed to abate the decline.
- 1.2. The Audit Committee received a report on the 27th July 2021 which provided an update on the local authority external audit market and to outline the timeline and options available to the council in appointing an External Auditor when the current arrangements reach their end.
- 1.3. On 22 September 2021 PSAA invited all eligible bodies to become opted-in authorities for the five consecutive financial years commencing 1 April 2023 (the compulsory appointing period).
- 1.4. A decision to become an opted-in authority must be taken in accordance with the Regulations by the members of an authority meeting as a whole (Full Council).
- 1.5. All local government and police bodies were required to make a decision on the procurement method of their external audit arrangements for the period commencing from the financial year 2023/24 by Friday the 11th March 2022.
- 1.6. The London Borough of Islington agreed at Full Council on 3rd March 2022 to submit the form of acceptance notice to the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to opt in to

the national auditor appointment arrangements for the audit years 2023/2024 to 2027/2028.

- 1.7. This report provides a market update on the significant price increases ahead and that the PSAA propose appointing KPMG as the auditor of the London Borough of Islington and Islington Pension Fund for five years from 2023/24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note that KPMG have been proposed as the new audit firm from 2023/24 for the Council and Pension Fund.
- 2.2. To note the scale fees are anticipated to rise by approximately 150%. For the Council that would mean an increase from approximately £180k to £450k. If this also applies to variations and variations remain the same, this would increase from £250k to £625k for 2021.

3. Challenges in the local audit sector

- 3.1. On the 16th December 2021, the government published a set of measures to improve the timeliness of local audits. Within this document they set out that their priorities for local audit are a strong and coordinated quality framework, a buoyant local audit market, and improved transparency and governance.
- 3.2. Local government audit plays a vital role in providing local authorities with accurate and reliable financial information to plan and manage their services and finances effectively. The timely completion of local audit also ensures local authority financial arrangements, including whether value for money is being achieved, are transparent to the taxpayer, and facilitates assurance for the public sector more broadly through the audit of the Whole of Government Accounts.
- 3.3. However, challenges remain around the timeliness of local audit which was one of the key issues highlighted by Sir Tony Redmond's [independent review](#) of local authority financial reporting and external audit. In 2017/18 the deadline for issuing audit opinions was brought forward from 30 September to 31 July. Since this point there has been a reduction in the number of local government audit opinions delivered on time, with significant reductions from 2018/19 onwards. This downward trend accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, with only 45% of 2019/20 audits completed by the extended deadline of 30 November 2020 and, most recently, only 9% of 2020/21 audits completed by the extended deadline of 30 September 2021.
- 3.4. As the National Audit Office (NAO) outlined in its 2020 report [Timeliness of local auditor reporting on local government in England](#), a variety of complex factors are contributing to audit delays. Audit firms are struggling with a net loss of qualified staff, with many qualified accountants choosing to leave the audit sector entirely. For auditors that are choosing to stay within the profession, alternative audit opportunities are often

perceived as more attractive than local audit, which is contributing a high turnover of staff within firms.

- 3.5. In addition, increasing workload and regulatory pressure on auditors have contributed to further delays. The NAO found that the additional requirements of new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), along with increased expectations from the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) following high-profile corporate failures such as Carillion and Patisserie Valerie, had combined to produce a significant increase in audit work, particularly on asset and pensions valuations. In some cases, issues with the preparation of local authority accounts have led to delays in audits being signed off.
- 3.6. Considering the complexity of the drivers behind audit delays, it is clear that a whole system response is needed, with local bodies, audit firms, regulatory bodies and code-setters needing to work collectively to implement solutions across the sector.
- 3.7. The government laid new regulations on 21 October 2021 to provide greater flexibility to the appointing person through, for example, extending the deadline for setting fee scales so that they can reflect the most recent market conditions, and streamlining the fee variation process under certain circumstances.
- 3.8. The government also provided £15 million of additional funding to local bodies for 2021/22 to support with the implementation of recommendations following the Redmond Review and the additional costs resulting from new audit requirements, including the new value for money reporting arrangements. In addition, the statutory deadline for publishing audited local authority accounts was extended to 30 September from 31 July from 2020/21 for 2 years.
- 3.9. At a recent [Local Audit Liaison Committee](#) meeting on the 21 September, it was noted by members that, while in the past, ensuring the quality of the final audit had been the priority, timeliness had worsened to the extent it had become a quality issue.
- 3.10. In response, a set of additional measures were committed to by government and other key stakeholders which were set out in the December 16th update. The sections of this update, together with the key commitments are set out below.

Section 1: Measures relating to audit firms and timely completion of audit

- Financial Reporting Council to publish updated Key Audit Partner guidance by spring 2022, including new routes for an experienced Registered Individual to become a Key Audit Partner
- Government to work with CIPFA to further develop the proposal for a new local audit training diploma in local government financial reporting and management aimed at different levels of auditor, and a new technical advisory service that could provide support to firms, and in particular new entrants

Section 2: Measures relating to local bodies and quality of accounts preparation

- DLUHC to provide further funding of £45 million over the course of next Spending Review period to support local bodies with the costs of strengthening their financial reporting, new burdens related to appointment of independent members and other Redmond recommendations and increased auditing requirements.
- CIPFA to publish strengthened guidance on audit committees by April 2022. The guidance will emphasise the role that audit committees should have in ensuring accounts are prepared to a high standard, alongside broader changes including appointment of independent members. Following consultation, consider making the guidance, committees and the independent member statutory
- DLUHC to provide via the Local Government Association a sector grant for a number of targeted training events for audit committee chairs

Section 3: Proposed measures relating to accounting and audit requirements

- National Audit Office (NAO) rolling over of amendments to allow for altering the timing of elements on the Value for Money arrangements work and enable more focus on fully delivering opinions on the financial statements
- CIPFA/LASAAC is undertaking a project to improve the presentation of local authority accounts to inform the development of the 22/23 Accounting Code and comply with International Financial Reporting Standards and statutory accounting principles
- HMT to undertake thematic review of financial reporting valuations for non-investment properties to inform development of the Accounting Code from 22/23 onwards
- The government has asked CIPFA/LASAAC to consider the merits of a time-limited change to the Accounting Code for 21/22
- Delaying implementation of standardised statements and associated audit requirements

Section 4: Longer-term measures to help stabilise the market and address long-term supply issues

- PSAA to progress their proposed procurement strategy for the next round of local audit contracts from 2023/24
- Extending the deadline for publishing audited local authority accounts to 30 November 2022 for 21/22 accounts and the 30 September date for 5 years from 2023/24 – 2027/28.
- NAO to prepare for a re-laying of the Code of Audit Practice 2020 in parliament, so that it will apply for the whole of the next appointing period
- Developing an industry-led workforce strategy, working with the system leader and audit firms, to consider the future pipeline of local audits, and associated questions related to training and qualifications

4. Appointment of an External Auditor

- 4.1. In July 2016, the Secretary of State specified PSAA as an appointing person for principal local government and police bodies for audits from 2018/19, under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.
- 4.2. Section 3 of this report paints a picture of an audit industry under enormous pressure and of a local audit system which is experiencing its share of the strain and unavoidable instability as impacts cascade down to the frontline of individual audits.
- 4.3. Delayed opinions are not the only consequence of the FRC's drive to improve audit quality. Additional audit work must be paid for. As a result, many more fee variation claims have been received than in prior years. Within Islington, additional fees of £50,900 relating to changing audit requirements were proposed in Grant Thornton's 2020/21 Audit Plan, considered by this Committee in March 2021. This was subsequently revised up to £129k by the time the audit had concluded.
- 4.4. None of these problems are unique to local government audit. Similar challenges have played out throughout other sectors where increased fees and disappointing responses to tender invitations have been experienced during the past two years.
- 4.5. The previous procurement on behalf of more than 480 bodies (98% of those eligible to join the national scheme) was very successful, attracting very competitive bids from firms. As a result the PSAA were able to enter into long term contracts with five suitable firms and to make auditor appointments to all bodies.
- 4.6. That arrangement has come to an end and once again the PSAA invited the Council to opt in, along with all other authorities, so that PSAA could enter into a number of contracts with appropriately qualified audit firms and appoint a suitable firm to be the Council's auditor. The Council opted in on 3rd March 2022 and this process has now concluded. Of the 10 firms currently registered to undertake local audits, seven tendered and the successful parties are now shown below:

	Share of PSAA's work
Grant Thornton	36.0%
Mazars	22.5%
Ernst & Young	20.0%
KPMG	14.0%
Bishop Fleming	3.75%
Azets Audit Services	3.25%

- 4.7. The PSAA believes the audit market will continue to be relatively unstable and difficult to predict for a further period of time as the Government continues to develop and implement its policy response to the four independent reviews – Kingman, CMA, Brydon, and Redmond; as further regulatory pressure is applied; and as firms respond and adapt. It is their view that organisations attempting to procure audit services of an appropriate quality during this period are likely to experience markedly greater challenges than pre-2018. There is little evidence to suggest a contrary view.

Audit Pricing

- 4.8. Audit developments since 2018 have focused considerable attention on audit fees. The drive to improve audit quality has created significant fee pressures as auditors have needed to extend their work to ensure compliance with increased regulatory requirements. Changes in audit scope and technical standards, such as the requirement in the new Code of Audit Practice 2020 for the auditor to provide a VFM arrangements commentary, have also had an impact.
- 4.9. As previously mentioned in this report, the quality and resources of audits has been significantly constrained over the last few years, as such the PSAA announced in a bulletin that fees were likely to increase by up to 150% from the previous year's fees.
- 4.10. This should ensure additional resources are granted to the Council's external auditor to help ensure that the Council's audit process will be robust and provide significant assurance to the public, whilst being completed in a timely manner.
- 4.11. It worth noting that Audit fees have risen considerable across the audit sector, with FTSE 250 companies charged 33% more year on year for new auditors from 2020 to 2021.
- 4.12. Additional costs were always going to arise as an inevitable consequence of striving to bring new suppliers into the market. If additional costs were to occur, they would be borne by the scheme as a whole rather than by an individual audited body or a sub-set of bodies.

Update on the Appointment of the Council's Auditor

- 4.13. The PSAA wrote to the Council on 17 October 2022 to inform them that KPMG had been selected as the provisional auditor for the Council for the five years from 2023/24.
- 4.14. One of the 'Big Four' audit firms, KPMG operates in over 100 countries with over 230,000 employees providing audit, assurance, tax, consulting and advisory services to the public and private sectors. KPMG employees around 16,000 people in the UK. Within the public sector they have 14 active Key Audit Partners supported by a team of 100 staff and a

range of specialists. KPMG undertakes a range of other public sector audit work including Local Audits in the NHS, central and local government audit work on behalf of NAO and Audit Scotland and a range of external audits in the education and social housing sectors. Prior to 2018, KPMG were appointed auditors to a range of local government bodies through previous audit procurement exercises.

4.15. In developing appointment proposals, the PSAA considered information provided by both opted-in bodies and audit firms, and have had regard to and sought to balance a range of factors including:

- 4.15.1. Auditor independence.
- 4.15.2. Joint/shared working arrangements.
- 4.15.3. Commitments to firms under the contracts.
- 4.15.4. Bodies main offices and geographical preferences.
- 4.15.5. Status of prior years audits.
- 4.15.6. Continuity (where possible).

4.16. The PSAA will hold a consultation period that will close on 14th November 2022 for any body who wishes to make objections about the proposed auditors, but the scope for objections is very narrow and generally centres around the following:

- 4.16.1. An independence issue in relation to the firm proposed as the auditor
- 4.16.2. Joint-working arrangements relevant to the auditor's responsibilities

4.17. The Council was required to notify the PSAA of this when submitting its initial opt in. As such the Council does not have sufficient grounds to object to the appointment and has thus confirmed the appointment.

4.18. Officers note that they previously worked with KPMG after the original dissolution of the audit commission and the working relationship and performance of the firm was of a good standard.

4.19. The new contract does have limits on supplier liabilities as follows:

- 4.19.1. Loss of damage to property of £2m per claim.
- 4.19.2. Loss incurred from non-compliance with data protection legislation of £5m per claim.
- 4.19.3. Loss in relation to a failure to perform the services in accordance with the Contract or any other loss caused directly by any act or omission of the supplier £10,000,000 per claim.

4.20. The PSAA will consult formally on scale fees for 2023/24 in Autumn 2023, and will publish confirmed scale fees for 2023/24 for opted-in bodies on their website by 30 November 2023.

5. Implications

Financial Implications:

- 5.1. The proposed fees cannot be fully known until the consultation process is completed; however, it is expected that they will be in the region of 150% higher from 22/23 fees. Given the widespread prevalence of fee variations, market uncertainty and the revision to an 80% quality weighting within the procurement, it was always certain that the fee payable by the Council will rise.
- 5.2. Given the 2021/22 scale fees of approximately £180k This would equate to a possible rise of £270k to £450k. If this also applies to variations and variations remain the same, this would increase fees from £285k to £712k based on 2020/21. A rise of £427k.
- 5.3. Additional costs arising will need to be found from departmental budgets as these costs are expected to be recurrent. There is no certainty on government funding for the anticipated fee increase at this time.

Legal Implications:

- 5.4. Section 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires a relevant Council to appoint a local auditor to audit its accounts for a financial year not later than 31 December in the preceding year. Section 8 governs the procedure for appointment including that the Council must consult and take account of the advice of its auditor panel on the selection and appointment of a local auditor. Section 8 provides that where a relevant Council is a local Council operating executive arrangements, the function of appointing a local auditor to audit its accounts is not the responsibility of an executive of the Council under those arrangements.
- 5.5. Section 12 makes provision for the failure to appoint a local auditor: the Council must immediately inform the Secretary of State, who may direct the Council to appoint the auditor named in the direction or appoint a local auditor on behalf of the Council.
- 5.6. Section 17 gives the Secretary of State the power to make regulations in relation to an 'appointing person' specified by the Secretary of State. This power has been exercised in the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 (SI 192) and this gives the Secretary of State the ability to enable a Sector Led Body to become the appointing person. In July 2016 the Secretary of State specified PSAA as the appointing person.
- 5.7. **Environmental Implications and contribution to net zero carbon by 2030.**
There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

Resident Impact Assessment

- 5.8. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 5.9. A resident impact assessment has not been carried out since the contents of this report relate to a purely administrative function and there are no direct impacts on residents.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations:

- 6.1. The report is for noting.

Appendices:

None

Background papers:

Committee	Paper	Hyperlink
Audit Committee 27 th July 2021	Appointment of External Auditors from 2023	https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s25473/External%20auditor%20appointment.pdf
Audit Committee 24 th January 2017	Opt in to the national scheme for auditor Appointments with PSAA as the 'Appointing Person'	https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s10520/Audit%20cttee%20PSAA%20Audit%20appointment%2024Jan17%202.pdf
Audit Committee 31 st January 2022	Update on the Local Authority External Audit Market & Appointment of External Auditors from 2023	https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s26918/External%20auditor%20appointment.pdf
Full Council 3 March 2022	Update on the Local Authority External Audit Market & Appointment of External Auditors from 2023	https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s27296/March%20Council%20-%20PSAA%20Decision.pdf

Final Report Clearance:

Signed by:

Corporate Director of Resources

Date

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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