

## Audit and Accounts Committee: Minutes

Date: 23 July 2025

Time: 2.00pm – 4.25pm

Place: New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald

Present: Councillors M Black, C Boden (Chair), P Fane (Vice Chair), R Ioannides, L Navarro, C Poulton and G Wilson

Non-voting co-opted member:  
M Hussain (via Zoom)

E Larcombe                      External auditor (KPMG)

### 13. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor C Boden declared an interest as a member of the Conduct Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW).

### 14. Minutes – 4 June 2025 and Minutes Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. The minutes action log was reviewed and noted.

### 15. Petitions and Public Questions

One public question was received from Andrew Rowson, a local resident. Mr Rowson commented that at the full Council meeting the previous week the chair of the Shareholder Sub-Committee replied to a written question stating that This Land Ltd's detailed balances did not form part of the council's accounting records. The implication was that This Land's accounting records and related documents were out of scope for those wanting to inspect the council's draft accounts. He challenged that this was not what Section 26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 said. Philip Coppel KC had written that the courts gave the phrase 'accounts to be audited' a broad meaning which included the running record of financial movements that would be used to make up the statement of accounts each financial year. The courts also gave the phrase 'relating to' a broad meaning, requiring only a factual connection to the relevant accounts and not an expressed reference. KPMG's audit of the council's accounts included single entity accounts and the consolidated group accounts, which included the accounting records for This Land Ltd, and set a separate materiality threshold for the consolidated accounts. Mr Rowson's view was that This Land Ltd's draft accounts for 2024/25 related to the council's consolidated group accounts for the same period which formed part of the accounting records. Those draft accounts and This land Ltd's related accounting records were therefore in his view within scope of the public's inspection rights under Section 26. Mr Rowson

asked if the committee would give a public assurance that interested parties would not be denied their statutory inspection rights.

The Chair invited questions of clarification only from committee members on Mr Rowson's question. Individual members:

- sought clarification of the documents or categories of records which Mr Rowson had requested under Section 26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, whether the Council had provided these in full and on time and whether the Council had obstructed his inspection rights previously. Mr Rowson commented that he had difficulty in the past getting information about This Land Ltd, including the draft accounts which he had requested the previous three or four years and been told were not within scope. Two years ago he had requested a public finance initiative (PFI) contract on street lighting and received two pages of a document containing several hundred pages. The remaining pages were redacted. He had made the same request last year and was told legal was looking into this and would respond soon, but he received no response. This year he was particularly concerned about This Land Ltd and the accounting records around that.
- asked whether Mr Rowson believed that aspects of the Council's accounts required urgent public scrutiny. Mr Rowson commented that he was not casting any aspersions, except possibly that there was a difference in understanding of the requirements of Section 26. It was for interested parties and local electors to use their knowledge to assist the external auditor in their work and it was part of representative democracy to allow them to make an objection to the accounts. They could not do this if they did not have the information within the statutory inspection period.
- asked whether Mr Rowson was suggesting that he had not been able to obtain key financial documents and that the statement of accounts and the risk register was losing credibility. Mr Rowson offered an example of his concerns. In this year's draft accounts for This Land Ltd and recent year's final accounts there was a figure for admin expenses which was usually just over £4m. Every year the attached note said that this included a number of categories, but those categories do not add up to the total figure stated and there was a shortfall of up to £2.2m. He had made a freedom of information (FOI) request on this two years ago to This Land Ltd asking about the missing sum and learned that this included the audit fee. He felt there were gaps in the information and he was looking for completeness.

The Chair stated that the answer to Mr Rowson's question was that he and any other interested parties would not be denied their statutory inspection rights under Section 26 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. If Mr Rowson did not receive that information in a reasonable time the Chair invited Mr Rowson to contact him personally to enable him to investigate. However, the advice which he had received from officers was that the statutory inspection rights related to the council's accounting records and not to bodies that might be part of the council's group accounts. In relation to the time taken to provide information, lengthy delays were not satisfactory as they did not allow interested parties to make investigations or representations. The Chair had asked officers to provide the large amounts of information requested by Mr Rowson in tranches, and was advised that this was what had happened in previous years. He understood the

first tranche of information would be provided within 10 days of the start of that process. In some cases there was a legal obligation on the council to redact some of the information within the accounting records. If Mr Rowson had any objections to this the Chair would be interested to hear what he had to say.

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated that as a former external auditor he was fully aware of the statutory provisions and that the council would never withhold any information from its external auditors. The council believed that it had complied with the statutory requirements in previous years and it would continue to work in an open and transparent way. The statement of accounts for This Land Ltd would be published, audited and freely available when ready. It was for the S151 Officer to exercise their professional judgment in relation to the statement of accounts and to challenge what was produced in compliance with policy and they would rightly be held to account on this by the external auditor. The council would comply with statutory requirements and he considered the report on the draft statement of accounts for 2024/25 which the committee would consider later in the meeting to be very open (minute 18 refers).

- the Service Director: Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer stated that it was her role to ensure that the council complied with all its legal obligations, including those relating to information management. She was aware of numerous requests from Mr Rowson and, as with all requests for information, these were moderated and legal advice was taken where necessary. On some occasions information was redacted for good legal reasons, but she had not seen any evidence during her time with the council that that Mr Rowson had not seen all that he was able to see. She had seen no evidence that the Council had acted unlawfully in terms of the information it had provided and this was backed up by external audit. Beyond this, there were appeal processes available via the Information Commissioner.

The Chair exercised his discretion to allow the public speaker to ask a supplementary question. Mr Rowson stated that he too was a former external auditor and that he quibbled with the council's definition of what was in scope. The law was clear that it was the accounts and records for the financial year to which the audit related and that included consolidated accounts. He had discussed this at length with Philip Coppel KC and was confident of this position.

The Chair thanked Mr Rowson for his question and for his examination of the accounting records, stating that all parties wanted the same thing which was for the accounting records to justify the accounts which were produced and signed off. He had sat on the Audit and Accounts Committee for a number of years and was alert to the concerns around the accounts expressed by Mr Rowson and others and he would treat anything which Mr Rowson sent to him fairly. The advice he had received from officers around the scope of Section 26 was that this related to the council's single entity accounts, but he reiterated was that there was an appeal process available.

- a member commented that Mr Rowson said that documents were not made available during a previous statutory inspection period, but the council officers said that they were made available with redactions. He asked whether the documents were provided in time for Mr Rowson to inspect and object to them, whether the documents were provided within formal 30 working day inspection period and whether this provided complete access.

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated that the information that was requested comprised two parts. One related to a street lighting PFI contract 680 pages long which included commercial information. Around 70 pages were redacted due to commercial sensitivities, equating to about 10% of the document. The response was sent in tranches and fully complied with the required time period. In relation to This Land Ltd there were tight statutory timescales around the production of the council's statement of accounts. For this reason it used This Land Ltd's management accounts rather than its final statement of accounts. The council had responded openly and transparently to its external auditors and he welcomed and encouraged public, press and councillors' inspection of the accounts. The council would provide what information it could where this was not commercially sensitive.

The Chair clarified that officers' advice was that the provisions of Section 26 applied to information relating to This Land Ltd which was contained within the council's single accounts. It did not apply to the accounts produced by This Land Ltd.

- a member sought clarification that Mr Rowson had not been denied any information that he was legally entitled to receive. The Chair confirmed that this was his understanding, and reiterated the option of appealing to the Information Commissioner's office. To his knowledge no such appeal had been made.

## 16. Draft Cambridgeshire County Council Statement of Accounts 2024/25

The draft statement of accounts for 2024/25 represented the consolidation of the position of whole council, including assets and liabilities. It had been prepared in accordance with international practice and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidelines and had been published on time at the end of June 2025. A narrative report had been included to provide a more accessible overview. Core statements included comprehensive income and expenditure information by directorates and cross-council items. The balance sheet included a breakdown of net assets for the year. A strong land and property base was reported, together with pension liabilities showing usable and unusable reserves. Details of accounting adjustments were also included. A decrease was reported in unusable reserves and the balance sheet was in a relatively healthy position. Section 2.5 of the report described a major new technical challenge relating to the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 (leases). Section 2.6 set out the position in relation to This Land Ltd, a company which was wholly owned by the council with the purpose of land development and house building. Section 2.8 included an explanation provided at previous meetings about the disclaimed audit opinion for the 2023/24 statement of accounts. It was hoped to move back to an unmodified opinion in the medium term.

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of Finance and Resources commended the finance team for their work each year to produce the council's draft statement of accounts to time and for the rigor with which this was done. The Chair noted that Cambridgeshire had met the deadline for publishing the draft accounts for 2024/25 which was not the case for all principal local authorities.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- asked if officers could confirm whether £60m relating to This Land Ltd had been written off. The Head of Finance advised that this sum had been converted into a performance contingent capital grant, and so not written off.
- asked how the council could be assured that it would get this £60m back and why, if this was not guaranteed, it was not shown as a loss in the accounts. The committee learned that the Shareholder Sub-Committee meeting the following day would be considering This Land Ltd's medium term business plan. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources advised that the cash position return overall would be a positive one, although not as great as had been hoped in 2016. The report being considered the following day contained more detail than previously and indicated the ability to restructure to protect the value of the assets.
- asked whether there was confidence that This Land Ltd could avoid defaulting on the loans going forward. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources advised that there has been no loss to the tax payer for revenue out to revenue in. Management had taken the decision to impair the equity at this stage, and this was recognised as a prudent approach by KPMG in its report to the February committee meeting. There was no loss in a cash term perspective, but the treatment of the cash had changed. The Chair noted that officer judgments would be challenged as part of the independent external audit.

The member expressed themselves unhappy with this explanation. A public question around this had been heard at the last meeting of Council and it seemed that some assets were sold by This Land Ltd and the legal charge held by the council was not repaid but was returned to the council as interest payments. To them, this looked like a loss. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated that This Land Ltd had never defaulted on a loan repayment and it remained the case that the majority of the loan was due to be repaid between 2026-2029. With regard to cashflow, the council and This Land Ltd had unusually agreed on a full drawdown of the loan on Day 1 of the loan period, with interest paid from Day 1. This put the council at an advantage and the company at a disadvantage, and this accounted for a large element of This Land Ltd's losses. The pandemic negatively affected This Land Ltd, leading to a slight deference of interest payments the previous year to secure the company's cash flow. However, if This Land Ltd's business plan was delivered as it would be presented to the Shareholder Sub-Committee the next following day it was estimated that the council would receive back around £126m against loans of £119.8m. Officers would then need to look at how this was addressed through the accounts.

The Chair clarified that the Audit and Accounts Committee was not a policy and service committee and that its focus was on ensuring that transactions were accurately reflected in the council's accounts.

- asked whether the part of the accounts relating to estimations would benefit from a section on This Land Ltd and the Safety Valve. The Chair advised that this could be looked at outside of the meeting - **action required**

- noted that usable reserves had reduced quite substantially and asked whether this was a concern. It was confirmed that this had been reported to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee in January 2025 as part of the 2025-2030 Financial Sustainability Assessment. The current position remained in line with that assessment. An update had subsequently been received from Government advising that the dedicated schools grant (DSG) would continue to be held off-balance until 2028. A further Government announcement was expected in the autumn.
- commented that discount rates were known and questioned why it was needed to estimate future discount rates. A response on this would be requested from the valuers - **action required**.
- commented that it appeared arithmetically impossible for the salary bands set out on page 64 to amount to £200k with the exit packages. A response was offered outside of this meeting to allow this to be checked - **action required**.
- a member stated that they opposed the draft accounts as they did not feel they were a true picture of the council's financial health.

The Chair suggested that the narrative account might benefit in future years from being slightly shorter to make it more accessible. The committee learned that CIPFA guidance on this was expected later in the year. If there was any opportunity to simplify the narrative further this would be done.

It was resolved to note the Council's draft statement of accounts 2024/25 included at Appendix 3 to the report.

## 17. Internal Audit Progress Report

The committee received the first Internal Audit (IA) progress report for the financial year 2025/26. Sections 3 and 4 of the report provided details of the IA reports issued in final form since the last update in March 2025 together with a summary of key findings where limited assurance was given. Committee members also had access to the full IA reports. A review of compliance with the Scheme of Delegation had been added to the work plan, but some planned areas of work had been cut back. There had been a couple of vacant posts within the IA team, but since the report was written a senior auditor post had been filled by a former trainee. The volume of whistleblowing cases was also increasing in the current financial year with 21 cases received so far compared to a total of 36 cases for the whole of 2024/25. The Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management highlighted that the increased number of whistleblowing referrals was likely due to new required eLearning for all county council staff on whistleblowing and fraud. It was positive to see this having an impact on officers feeling comfortable to report concerns, but it was creating some pressure on the IA team in triaging whistleblowing reports.

The Chief Executive stated that the committee had expressed concern previously at the low level of whistleblowing reports within the council. This had been addressed by improving the policy, introducing the new eLearning module, raising the profile of whistleblowing and following up reports as appropriate, giving staff greater confidence to come forward.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- asked whether the increase in overdue audit actions suggested a systemic issue. The Chief Executive stated that there was no single underlying cause for this increase. One essential item related to the Safety Valve and discussions about this with the Department for Education were on-going. One of the three outstanding audit actions rated as high related to capital project management and there were underlying recommendations which needed to be addressed first. The rise in the number of overdue audit actions over the past 12 months was disappointing, but he did not see this as a systemic issue and expected that number to go down.
- welcomed the appointment of an additional member of staff to the IA team.
- asked whether IA was able to use external support to enable the team to deliver the audit plan in full. The Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management advised that this option was kept under review. However, the support needed to get external professionals up to speed placed an additional burden on the in-house team so sometimes it was preferable to have a gap rather than use external capacity. She did not feel that additional external resource was currently required, but would advise the committee if that changed. The Chief Executive advised that he met regularly with the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management and that he asked this question each time.
- asked for more information around one item within the Adults, Health and Commissioning Directorate where the organisational impact was assessed as major. The committee learned that this related to the disaggregation of the Learning Disability Partnership pooled budget. The Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee had been advised at its last meeting that this risk had reduced and that it had been de-escalated from the corporate risk register. Actions arising from the audit would be covered in future reports.
- noted that there was no mention in the risk register of the £60m loan to This Land Ltd being converted into a grant. The Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management advised the IA plan for 2025/26 included a review to provide assurance over the governance and shareholder monitoring arrangements which the council had in place relating to This Land Ltd.

It was resolved to consider and comment on the content of the report.

## 18. Annual Risk Report 2024/25

The Annual Risk Report 2024/25 was the same as the report submitted to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee (SRP) earlier in the month. Key updates included the risk score for the Learning Disability Partnership disaggregation being reduced from 16 to 10, resulting in this being de-escalated from the corporate risk register back to the Adults, Health and Commissioning Directorate risk register. A new risk 14 had been added: 'the council's governance on health and safety is inadequate'. Risk 11: 'Risk of failure of collaborative working' and Risk 12: 'Cambridgeshire County Council is not adequately prepared for the impacts of the changing climate' had both increased from 12 to 16. The new corporate risk manager had undertaken a risk maturity review. An updated risk management strategy was

included at Annex B together with an updated risk management policy which had been approved by SRP.

The Chair asked whether any member of the committee wished to discuss the exempt appendix to the report. There were no requests to do so.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- asked whether the dedicated schools grant (DSG) was now red rated. The committee was advised that this was not an individual risk but was included within Risk 3: Failure of financial management. The finance team was in constant dialogue with the Department for Education around Safety Valve payments and this was not a risk that sat on the council's balance sheet.
- noted that risk around collaborative working was rising at the same time that risk around workforce was falling. Officers clarified that these two elements were distinct. The workforce risk related to council employees and filling specific posts whereas the risk around collaborative working related to relationships with external partners. The increased risk rating around collaborative working reflected the re-organisation of the local integrated care board and associated budget cuts, a change in leadership at Cambridgeshire Constabulary and local government reorganisation.
- noted that the report referred to an eLearning module and asked whether this could be made available to councillors - **action required**.
- asked how take-up of eLearning was measured. Officers advised that not all eLearning was mandatory, but that reports on completion rates were provided by the learning and development team.
- welcomed the option of directorates escalating risks to the corporate risk register and asked what other arrangements were in place to ensure that matters were brought to the attention of the council's corporate leadership team (CLT). The Chief Executive advised that directorates could escalate risks to CLT at any time and that CLT also held specific quarterly risk review meetings. There were monthly meetings between himself and the other statutory officers and discussions with elected members were also considered. The new risk 14: 'The council's governance on health and safety is inadequate' had been added to the corporate risk register at his instigation following the prosecution of the council in relation to the guided busway and it would remain there until he was satisfied on this. In addition, CLT had the benefit of the policy and insight team's research on the policy and legislative environment. It also took account of the findings of any Internal Audit reports.

The Chair stated that if the council prioritised everything then it looked at nothing, so it was important to de-escalate risks where appropriate. He expressed himself dissatisfied that members appreciated the risk appetite that they must own and how important this was. The Chief Executive stated that risk appetite would differ on different issues and that executive directors would work with individual committees around this. A member development session on risk management was also being arranged and this would be open to all members.

It was resolved to note and comment on the Annual Risk Management Report (Appendix 1), Corporate Risk Register (Annex A); Risk Management Strategy (Annex B); and Updated Risk Policy (Annex C).

## 19. Failure to Prevent Fraud and Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy

The report set out the reasonable procedures that Cambridgeshire County Council had put in place in relation to the new offence of 'failure to prevent fraud' which was established in the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (2023). The report also presented a proposed Counter Fraud Strategy and outlined an action plan to further strengthen the Council's fraud prevention framework.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) approve the proposed Counter Fraud Strategy.
- b) note and comment on the reasonable procedures to prevent fraud.

## 20. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The annual governance statement provided a description and analysis of the systems and frameworks in place for managing governance in the council and whether these were working. A more thematic approach had been taken this time in response to new CIPFA guidance around the culture of governance and an action plan would be brought to the committee to review, approve and monitor. This would also be monitored by the statutory officers' group on a monthly basis. Officers would be happy to take any suggestions from the committee on improvements to the report or any gaps that members identified.

The Chair exercised his discretion to accept an amendment to the report recommendations without the required notice period. On being proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Boden, it was resolved unanimously to make the following amendment:

- b) delegate authority to the Service Director (Legal and Governance) and Monitoring Officer to make minor alterations in consultation with the Chair **and Vice Chair** of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- asked whether section 11: 'Where our governance needs to improve' should go after section 12: 'How we have improved our governance arrangements in 2024/25'. Officers advised that the structure of the report followed the CIPFA format, but were happy to make that change to the layout - **action required**.
- noted that committee chairs met with their respective executive directors, but they did not all meet with the Corporate Leadership Team. The Chief Executive advised that the report reflected the arrangements in place in 2024/25 under the Joint Administration following recommendations made by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) and a previous corporate peer challenge.

Arrangements for the new Administration were still under discussion with the Leader of the Council.

- noted that the section of the report relating to local government reorganisation (LGR) was quite short and anticipated that this would get longer over time. The Chief Executive advised that a lot of time was being spent on LGR and that it would have a significant impact on governance and the timescales for decision making, especially once shadow authorities were established.

It was resolved to:

- a) consider whether the draft Annual Governance Statement at Appendix 1 is consistent with the Committee's own perspective on internal control within the organisation and the definition of significant governance and control issues noted in paragraph 2.2 below.
- b) delegate authority to the Service Director (Legal and Governance) and Monitoring Officer to make minor alterations in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee.

## 21. KPMG Audit Plan for Cambridgeshire Pension Fund 2024/25

The report on the audit plan for the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund for 2024/25 provided a summary of the work to be carried out by the external auditor KPMG. This included materiality levels and highlighted significant areas of risk. It also addressed the valuation process for Cambridge and Counties Bank (CCB), where KPMG proposed to bring in its own corporate finance team to assess this. The audit timeline and mandatory communications were also described. This information had also been reported to the Pension Fund Committee.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- noted that there had been quite a large increase in the valuation of CCB and asked whether management was comfortable with this. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated that assurance was sought via comparison with other similar entities and that evidence had been provided to KPMG. They would do due diligence on this and report back to the Pension Fund Committee and to the Audit and Accounts Committee. The KPMG representative advised they would assess the information provided and would use additional expertise within KPMG in relation to the valuation methodology. They would provide an opinion on the approach taken to the valuation and whether the underlying assumptions were within a reasonable range.

It was resolved unanimously to note the audit plan for the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund for 2024/25 and presentation by KPMG.

## 22. Executive Director's Assurance Report: Strategy and Partnerships Directorate

Executive Director's reports were submitted to provide assurance that sound controls were in place and operating effectively within each of the council's directorates. Key aspects of this within the Strategy and Partnerships Directorate included the completion of strategic commander training for on-call officers, the introduction and implementation of the Our Future Council Change Strategy and the introduction of a council-wide Change Board chaired by the Chief Executive, and a Local Government Association health check on the council's approach to communications and consultation which had informed a refresh of the communication team's work. Section 4 of the report set out the directorate's overall control environment, including the executive director's role in leading the target operating model portfolio and the role of the programme team. There had been no whistleblowing complaints for the directorate during the period covered by the report.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- asked that congratulations to the team should be recorded on the positive outcomes of recent inspections.
- asked whether directors were briefed on their responsibilities in relation to emergency command arrangements, including the council's responsibilities in relation to flooding. The committee learned that there was a gold/ silver command structure in place. Gold commanders received training on the council's role and that of the district councils and other partners. Silver command was focused on tactical and operational matters.

It was resolved unanimously to consider the assurance provided over the adequacy of the Council's control environment and compliance with corporate governance controls.

[The meeting was adjourned between 4.03pm and 4.13pm]

## 23. Executive Director's Assurance Report: Finance and Resources Directorate

The committee learned that there were constitutional provisions in relation to the need for a strong control environment around finance and procurement. Work had continued during the period covered by the report strengthen these controls, including the establishment of a new Finance and Transparency Panel. The work of Property Services included a strong focus on health and safety with reports submitted to the Assets and Procurement Committee for check and challenge. Cyber security remained a key issue. In addition to the directorate's responsibilities the Executive Director of Finance and Resources held some additional personal responsibilities, including as the treasurer to the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund. The Service Director: Finance and Procurement dealt with Pension Fund matters from a S151 perspective to avoid any conflicts of interest. There had been no whistleblowing complaints during the reporting period, but the directorate received quite frequent stage 1 and 2 complaints in relation to customer services.

Individual Members raised the following points in relation to the report:

- asked whether there were any common issues identified in relation to blue badge complaints. The committee learned that these related solely to people disagreeing with the outcome of their application and challenging this.
- asked for more information around debt recovery. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources advised that work was taking place around potential risks arising from local government reorganisation and especially around the volume of work that would need to be dealt with. Digital opportunities were recognised and would be considered on a business case basis.
- asked about the Local Government Association peer review of the council's cyber security systems. The Chief Executive highlighted that cyber security was included on the corporate risk register and that confidential appendices relating to this were shared with both the Strategy and Resources Committee and Audit and Accounts Committees.
- the Chair questioned the number of non-compliances relating to procurement and asked whether these reflected continuing or legacy issues. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated that management had been open about the council's improvement journey in relation to procurement and that considerable effort had been directed to this. The Assets and Procurement Committee received regular updates on this and work continued to address any identified areas of weakness.

It was resolved unanimously to consider the assurance provided over the adequacy of the Council's control environment and compliance with corporate governance controls.

## 24. Committee Agenda Plan

Committee members agreed that they would like to continue to receive assurance reports from each of the council's five executive directors on a rolling basis. The Chief Executive suggested that the same sequence of reports should be followed and would reflect on how to strengthen future reports based on the committee's feedback and questions from the first year of operation – **action required**.

The Chair clarified that responsibility for subsidiary companies rested with the Shareholder Sub-Committee. However, he saw no harm in a report being brought to the Audit and Accounts Committee around This Land Ltd in relation to accounting matters. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated that the Audit and Accounts Committee would receive a report containing the external auditors' independent findings. Work had already started on this and it was hoped that an update would be available for the next meeting.

A member noted that an Internal Audit review of the council's relationship and governance in relation to This Land Ltd was planned for Quarter 2 and suggested that it would be helpful for the committee to see the report on this – **action required**.

It was resolved unanimously to note the committee agenda plan.

## 25. Committee Training Plan

It was resolved unanimously to note the committee training plan.

(Chair)