



Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Mark Smith (Chair)

Councillor Ram Lakha OBE (Vice-Chair)	Coventry City Council
Councillor Dave Borley	Dudley Metropolitan Council
Councillor Craig Collingswood	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ram Mehmi	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nick Bardsley	Shropshire Council Non- Constituent Authorities
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne	Warwickshire Non-Constituent Authorities

In Attendance

**Item Title
No.**

16. Inquorate meeting

It was reported that the meeting was inquorate and therefore the recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 28 October 2022 for formal approval and adoption.

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen (Sandwell) and Councillor Meeson (Solihull).

18. Notification of Substitutes

Councillor Padda attended the meeting via Teams on behalf of Councillor Allen.

19. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reported on recent activities he had undertaken including meetings he had attended on behalf of the committee.

He also he informed the committee that Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the nominated LEP representative on the committee was in the process of being disbanded and therefore there was currently no LEP member on the committee.

20. Minutes - 7 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were agreed as a true record.

21. Matters Arising
Minute no. 14 Cyber Essentials Report

Further to the last meeting it was confirmed that the WMCA had made a new submission against the new enhanced Cyber Essentials criteria last month.

22. Forward Plan

The committee considered a report on agenda items to be submitted to future meetings.

In relation to the terms of reference for the committee which are under review and are scheduled to be submitted to the next meeting, the interim Director of Law and Governance, Satish Mistry, reported that the new Director of Law and Governance (joining the WMCA in January 2023) might want to be involved in this area of work and would therefore look to re-schedule this item to a future meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

23. Public Sector Audit Appointments: Audit Quality Monitoring Report 2021

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of the Finance and Business Hub that had been prepared to share a summary of the Public Sector Audit Appointments Audit Quality Monitoring Report 2021.

The Head of Financial Management, Louise Cowen, outlined the report

24. WMCA Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

25. Heath & Safety Annual Update

26. Strategic Risk Update

27. Single Assurance Framework - Assurance Performance Report - April to August 2022

28. Internal Audit Update - October 2022

29. Exclusion of the Public and Press

30. Whistleblowing Investigation - Adult Education Services

31. Whistleblowing Investigation - Housing

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm.