

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 13 th March 2024
Subject: Chairs report for Audit & Scrutiny Committee	
Committee Chair: Cllr Darryl Sankey	

An update from the Audit & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23rd January 2024:

Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25

Cllr Hirst requested that pre scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy be referred to the Constitution Working Group and for the Monitoring Officer to review the opportunity for Audit & Scrutiny Committee to pre-scrutinize the Treasury Management Strategy. Members requested the Strategy be brought to the next A&S meeting for post scrutiny. The Chair agreed.

Internal Audit Progress Report:

This report informed the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of progress made against the 2023/24 internal audit plan. Members raised some concerns to be addressed.

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of senior officers present at the meeting to answer the questions raised following the reports brought before them and requested the attendance of relevant officers at future meetings.

Treasury Management Update:

A report gave an update on the Council's treasury management activity and performance for the period April to December 2023 noted by the Committee.

Report on the progress of work to deliver improvements to the Development Management and Enforcement service:

In July 2023, a report into the delivery of the wider Development Management services at Brentwood and Rochford was completed. That report contained a number of recommendations, which are now being actively progressed through an Officers Planning Improvement Board chaired by the Strategic Director responsible. A report was tabled to the Committee and noted by the Committee in order to update Members on the progress of this work and to seek comment on the on-going improvement programme.

Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24:

The Constitution requires that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee agrees its Scrutiny work programme at each meeting of the Committee. A report provided an update of the current scrutiny work programme. It was resolved unanimously that the Committee considered and agreed the 2023/24 Scrutiny work programme to include the scoping of the work in relation to Implications of the appointment system for Recycling Centres.