

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Wednesday 28 April 2021

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

Note:

A time period of up to 30 minutes is available for public questions in total. Supplementary questions will be asked in order of receipt. The questioner may ask one supplementary question at the meeting which will be answered without discussion. The supplementary question must be relevant to the original question put to the Chairman.

Agenda Item No	Question raised by	Public Question
Item 7 Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q4 (Phase 2) Progress Report 1st January to 31st March 2021	John Dix	<p>Yet again Procurement, CPR, has received a Limited Assurance rating. The nine risks highlight some fundamental shortcomings in the operation of this service. In particular, risk 6 is especially concerning with a lack of evidence of any strategic oversight of such procurements managed by Re. Given that Re have spent £80.73 million on purchases such as SPIRs, over and above their contract fee, how can we have confidence that this money has not been wasted and will this committee report these finds back to the Financial Performance & Contracts who are currently deciding whether this contract should be renewed?</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Response</p>
		<p>As part of the action plan that has been developed in response to the audit findings, it has been agreed that RE will provide a quarterly update on procurements that they manage for the council to the Procurement Board. In respect of expenditure incurred through SPIRs, there is a robust approval process in place whereby all elements of the SPIRs are subject to challenge from client leads, commercial, finance and programmes colleagues to ensure that they meet the council's needs and represent good value for money. This audit report has previously been shared with the chairman of the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee and will be shared with other Members of the Committee ahead of their next meeting. There will be a follow-up audit to review progress against the action plan, the results of which will be reported to the Audit Committee in July.</p>