

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Audit Committee 22 February 2022

Question 1 from Stephen Mulloy

Would it be possible to have an update, possibly from the External Auditor, on when objectors to the council's statement of accounts 2020/21 might receive a comprehensive response from the External Auditor?

Response from Cllr Brian Williams – Chair Audit Committee

Thank you for your question. Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors have confirmed that due to resourcing constraints and focus on completing the 2020/21 financial statements audit work has not progressed as planned. The External Auditor has now commissioned a specialist resource to help review this objection and should be able to respond by Easter 2022.

Question 2 from Stephen Mulloy

Shropshire Council do not routinely check planning conditions have been discharged before recording them as discharged on the Local Land Charges Register; this is something that has been brought to the attention of the External Auditor. Can I ask if the Audit Team have carried out an investigation into the recording of planning conditions relating to the development at The Brambles, Whitchurch, SY13 1FE, and if not, will they do so to determine if the discharge of conditions had been correctly recorded and whether Shropshire Council has a liability under the indemnity that comes with the search certificates provided?

Response from Cllr Brian Williams – Chair Audit Committee

Thank you for your question. I can confirm that Internal Audit have not carried out reviews into the recording of planning conditions relating to specific developments. The Service is not resourced to and does not check all transactions of the Council; however systems are reviewed following a risk based methodology. If a member of the public has a specific concern this can initially be raised and dealt with by the direct service area and in the unlikely event of any dissatisfaction in respect of the response provided, there is a complaint process that can be called upon to reevaluate the position and ultimately this allows for an independent review through the Ombudsman.