

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

6 October 2023

PRESENT: -

Councillor K Vickers (Chairman) Councillors T Foster (Vice-Chair), P Clark, A Davison, H Yates, D Wells and L Yeadon.

Councillor R Waltham MBE attended the meeting in accordance with Procedure Rule 1.37(b).

The meeting was held in Room F01e, Conference Room, Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

744 **POST ELECTION INDEPENDENT REVIEW** - The Director: Outcomes circulated a report that informed members of the outcome of the independent review undertaken by the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) into the failure to count some postal ballots for the Broughton and Scawby ward in the May 2023 local elections.

Members were informed that at its last meeting, the Committee received a report on the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23. Within that report reference was made to the Returning Officer having made a referral to the Electoral Commission following the Local Elections in May 2023 when it was identified that some postal ballots for the Broughton and Scawby ward had not been counted.

The committee heard that in addition to informing the Electoral Commission, the Returning Officer commissioned, via the Director: Governance and Communities, a post-election independent review by the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA). The review was undertaken by the AEA's Chief Executive, Peter Stanyon and his report was attached at appendix 1.

The AEA's report had been shared with the relevant candidates and agents that, in addition to relevant officers, took part in the review. Officers had carefully considered the review recommendations and prepared an action plan in response which was attached at appendix 2 and would assist the Returning Officer in administering future elections.

The AEA's report had also been shared with the Electoral Commission, which had referenced the referral in its post poll report into Performance Standards for the May 2023 elections.

The Chair then facilitated a discussion amongst the committee and the Director on the Association of Electoral Administrators report, including the action plan.

Resolved – That the Association of Electoral Administrators report and the subsequent action plan be referred to the council's Governance Scrutiny Panel for their consideration.