

Berneslai Homes Audit & Risk Committee 3rd April 2025 – Meeting Summary:

BH Investment Strategy

Committee received a report from Barnsley Council which set out the organisation's investment priorities for 2025/26, the treasury management model and regulatory framework in which the organisation operates.

Committee agreed the recommendations on investment limits, investment instruments, scheme of delegation and policy statement.

External Audit Plan

External Audit presented their report which outlined the Audit Planning Strategy for the year ending 31/3/25, which included materiality, key audit risks and the planned approach to address these. Committee were informed of the new accounting standards effective from 1/1/2026 noting that these will have no effect on this year's accounts and that no significant changes are anticipated for Berneslai Homes at this stage.

Committee approved the External Audit Plan including the proposed fees.

Risk Report Quarterly Update

Committee received and reviewed the report which provided a summary of the strategic risks, the risk appetite statement, the action plans that will be monitored together with an update on emergency resilience and business continuity.

Committee were assured on the current risk position.

Data Protection Officers' Annual Assurance Report

Committee received a report from Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance, which covered the statutory Data Protection Officers' annual report and opinion which provided an overall positive assurance opinion.

Committee considered the report in line with the Company's assurance arrangements to ensure that the overall internal control, risk and governance framework is effective.

Corporate Assurance Activity Report
<p>Committee received and considered the report from Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance which provided the Corporate Assurance Team's progress against the 2024/25 agreed plan of assurance work for Berneslai Homes for the period 16th December 2024 to 28th February 2025.</p> <p>It was noted that the new process for agreed management actions has been agreed which will commence in April 2025, with the first update to be presented to Committee at the next meeting.</p>
Agreed Management Actions
<p>Committee received and noted the report on the improved Executive Management oversight, monitoring and reporting of Agreed Management Actions.</p>
Corporate Assurance Fraud Update
<p>Committee received a report from Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance which provided an update the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team's work for Berneslai Homes for the period 1st September 2024 to 28th February 2025. A summary of alleged Tenancy Fraud referrals was provided with Committee's attention being drawn to the positive outcomes from this.</p> <p>Committee noted the progress made during this period.</p>
Repairs System Update
<p>An update was given on the repairs system.</p> <p>Committee noted the positive update on the review and the progress being made on improvements.</p>
Building Safety Compliance Scorecard
<p>Committee received a report which gave an update on the performance of Berneslai Homes in delivering key services as set out in the Building Safety Scorecard as at the end of January 2025. Compliance remained strong with 4 of the Building Safety Compliance Tenant Satisfaction Measures being 100% as at the end of January 2025. 99.9% compliance was achieved on gas, lifts 98.98%, fire safety 99.86% and electrical 10 year position was 99.98%. Damp, mould and condensation remains a key focus area.</p> <p>Committee reviewed and noted Berneslai Homes' performance in delivering overall building safety compliance.</p>