



MINUTES

AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 11 March 2025

6:00pm

Council Chambers

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Strengthening our community now to grow and prosper into the future

The President Cr. Hickey requested that Deputy President Cr. S Jacobs chair the meeting.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Deputy President, Cr. S Jacobs opened the meeting at 6:00pm

2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Shire President	Cr. D Hickey (Via Teams)
Shire Deputy President	Cr. S Jacobs
	Cr. B Filinski
	Cr. M Leach

Chief Executive Officer	N A Manton
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	M T Henry

Director of AMD	M Cavallo (Via Teams)
Assistant Director OAG	S Karki (Via Teams)

APOLOGIES

Cr. B Fare
Cr. M Dickinson
Cr. M Weguelin

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

4 CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

4.1 CONFIRMATION AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on Monday 23 December 2024 (Attachment 4.1).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr. Leach

Seconded: Cr. Filinski

That the minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on Monday 23 December 2024 (Attachment 4.1) be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried 4/0

For: Cr. Hickey, Cr. Jacobs, Cr. Filinski & Cr. Leach

Against: NIL

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6 REPORTS

The Risk Management Framework that was endorsed by the Audit Committee at the last meeting will be taken to the next Council meeting 18 March 2025 for adoption.

In accordance with Section 7.1A of the Local Government Amendment Act 2024, all local governments are required to establish an Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee. As such, the Audit and Risk Management Committee must now be referred to as the Audit, Risk, and Improvement Committee to ensure compliance with the updated legislation.

7 MATTERS REQUIRING A COMMITTEE DECISION

7.1 MEETING WITH AUDITOR

Applicant:	Shire of Corrigin
Date:	10/03/2025
Reporting Officer:	Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	NIL
File Ref:	FM.0381
Attachment Ref:	Attachment 7.1 – Audit Planning Summary - Confidential

SUMMARY

The Shire of Corrigin Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is required to meet with the auditor annually.

BACKGROUND

AMD Chartered Accountants (AMD) have been engaged by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Western Australia to perform an audit of the Shire of Corrigin's annual financial report for the year ending 30 June 2025.

An Audit Planning Summary has been prepared and sets out the proposed strategy for the audit. The key purpose of this memorandum is to:

- set out the audit scope and approach in summary;
- identify and communicate the key audit risk areas which we expect to be the focus of the audit procedures; and
- promote effective communication between the auditor and those charged with governance.

Representatives from AMD will meet with the audit committee to provide an overview of the audit process for 2025 and respond to questions from committee members

Ms Maria Cavallo, Auditor Director, AMD and Mr Suraj Karki from the Office of the Auditor General will attend the meeting by Teams

COMMENT

The interim audit is booked to be conducted 31 March - 2 April 2025 and the final visit is booked for the period 20 - 23 October 2025. The annual report is expected to be finalised in November 2025 ready for endorsement at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16 December 2025.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995 Part 7

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision for approximately \$50,000 for the costs associated with the 2024/25 Interim and Annual Audit will be made in the 2025/26 Annual Budget. Provision will be confirmed once advice from the Office of the Auditor General is received.

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Shire of Corrigin Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031 and Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025:

Objective: Governance and Leadership
Strong Governance and Leadership

Strategic Community Plan		Corporate Business Plan	
Outcome	Strategies	Action No.	Actions
4.4	Provide informed and transparent decision making that, meets our legal obligations, and the needs of our diverse community	4.4.4	Provide Council adequate and appropriate financial information on a timely basis.
4.5	Implement systems and processes that meet legislative and audit obligations	4.5.1	Continual improvement in governance and operational policies, processes and implementation

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr. Filinski

Seconded: Cr. Hickey

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee endorse the Audit Planning Summary outlining the scope, approach and key deliverables of the audit of the annual financial report for the year ending 30 June 2025.

Carried 4/0

For: Cr. Hickey, Cr. Jacobs, Cr. Filinski & Cr. Leach

Against: NIL

M Cavallo and S Karki left the meeting at 6:13pm

7.2 COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN

Applicant:	Shire of Corrigin
Date:	24/02/2025
Reporting Officer:	Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	NIL
File Ref:	CM.0001
Attachment Ref:	NIL

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee with the 2024 Compliance Audit Return for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The Audit Committee is requested to review the 2024 Compliance Audit Return and recommend it be endorsed by Council.

BACKGROUND

Western Australian local governments are required to complete an annual Compliance Audit Return (CAR) in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* (Regulations). The CAR must be submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (Department) by 31 March 2025. The period examined by this audit is 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

The completed return is required to be:

- Reviewed by the Audit Risk Management Committee.
- Considered and adopted by Council.
- Certified by the President and CEO following Council adoption.
- Submitted together with a copy of the Council Minutes to the Department by 31 March 2025.

The report assists the Shire of Corrigin to monitor legislative compliance by examining a range of prescribed requirements under Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* in detail. The audit findings must be recorded in the supplied pro-forma which has been completed and is provided below.

COMMENT

The Compliance Audit Return has been carried out by the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the administration staff against the following criteria:

- Commercial Enterprises by Local Governments
- Delegation of Power / Duty
- Disclosure of Interest
- Disposal of Property
- Elections
- Finance
- Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Local Government Employees
- Official Conduct
- Tenders for Providing Goods and Service

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995, s 7.13(1)(i) of the Local Government Act 1995 requires local governments to carry out an audit of compliance with statutory requirements prescribed in the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996, in the prescribed manner and in the form approved by the Minister.

Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 sets out the statutory requirements which may be included in the compliance audit.

Regulation 14 Compliance Audits by Local Governments

- 1) A local government is to carry out a compliance audit for the period 1 January to 31 December in each year.*
- 2) After carrying out a compliance audit the local government is to prepare a compliance audit return in a form approved by the Minister.*
- 3A) The local government's audit committee is to review the compliance audit return and is to report to the council the results of that review.*
- 3) After the audit committee has reported to the council under sub-regulation (3A), the compliance audit return is to be —*
 - (a) presented to the council at a meeting of the council; and*
 - (b) adopted by the council; and*
 - (c) recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is adopted.*

Regulation 15 Compliance Audit Return, certified copy of etc. to be given to Departmental CEO

- 1) After the compliance audit return has been presented to the council in accordance with regulation 14(3) a certified copy of the return together with —*
 - (a) a copy of the relevant section of the minutes referred to in regulation 14(3)(c); and*
 - (b) any additional information explaining or qualifying the compliance audit, is to be submitted to the Departmental CEO by 31 March next following the period to which the return relates.*
- 2) In this regulation —*
 - certified in relation to a compliance audit return means signed by —*
 - (a) the mayor or president; and*
 - (b) the CEO.*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Shire of Corrigin Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031 and Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025:

Objective: Governance and Leadership
Strong Governance and Leadership

Strategic Community Plan		Corporate Business Plan	
Outcome	Strategies	Action No.	Actions
4.5	Implement systems and processes that meet legislative and audit obligations	4.5.1	Continual improvement in governance and operational policies, processes and implementation

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr. Leach

Seconded: Cr. Filinski

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee accepts the completed Compliance Audit Return for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 as provided below and recommend to Council that the return be adopted.

Carried 4/0

For: Cr. Hickey, Cr. Jacobs, Cr. Filinski & Cr. Leach

Against: NIL



COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN 2024

Commercial Enterprises by Local Governments				
No	Reference	Question	Response	Comments
1	s3.59(2)(a) F&G Regs 7,9,10	Has the local government prepared a business plan for each major trading undertaking that was not exempt in 2024?	N/A	
2	s3.59(2)(b) F&G Regs 7,8A, 8, 10	Has the local government prepared a business plan for each major land transaction that was not exempt in 2024?	N/A	
3	s3.59(2)(c) F&G Regs 7,8A, 8,10	Has the local government prepared a business plan before entering into each land transaction that was preparatory to entry into a major land transaction in 2024?	N/A	
4	s3.59(4)	Has the local government complied with public notice and publishing requirements for each proposal to commence a major trading undertaking or enter into a major land transaction or a land transaction that is preparatory to a major land transaction for 2024?	N/A	
5	s3.59(5)	During 2024, did the council resolve to proceed with each major land transaction or trading undertaking by absolute majority?	N/A	

Delegation of Power/Duty				
No	Reference	Question	Response	Comments
1	s5.16 (1)	Were all delegations to committees resolved by absolute majority?	Yes	Audit and Risk Committee has delegated authority to meet with the Auditor on behalf of the Council, examine and review reports from the Office of Auditor General and ensure appropriate action is taken on any matters.
2	s5.16 (2)	Were all delegations to committees in writing?	Yes	Delegation Register and Committee Terms of Reference
3	s5.17	Were all delegations to committees within the limits specified in section 5.17 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> ?	Yes	
4	s5.18	Were all delegations to committees recorded in a register of delegations?	Yes	



5	s5.18	Has council reviewed delegations to its committees in the 2023/2024 financial year?	Yes	Delegations Register is reviewed annually. Last review took place 18 June 2024, Resolution 51/2024
6	s5.42(1) & s5.43 Admin Reg 18G	Did the powers and duties delegated to the CEO exclude those listed in section 5.43 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> ?	Yes	
7	s5.42(1)	Were all delegations to the CEO resolved by an absolute majority?	Yes	
8	s5.42(2)	Were all delegations to the CEO in writing?	Yes	
9	s5.44(2)	Were all delegations by the CEO to any employee in writing?	Yes	
10	s5.16(3)(b) & s5.45(1)(b)	Were all decisions by the Council to amend or revoke a delegation made by absolute majority?	Yes	
11	s5.46(1)	Has the CEO kept a register of all delegations made under Division 4 of the Act to the CEO and to employees?	Yes	
12	s5.46(2)	Were all delegations made under Division 4 of the Act reviewed by the delegator at least once during the 2023/2024 financial year?	Yes	
13	s5.46(3) Admin Reg 19	Did all persons exercising a delegated power or duty under the Act keep, on all occasions, a written record in accordance with <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> , regulation 19?	Yes	

Disclosure of Interest				
No	Reference	Question	Response	Comments
1	s5.67	Where a council member disclosed an interest in a matter and did not have participation approval under sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , did the council member ensure that they did not remain present to participate in discussion or decision making relating to the matter?	Yes	
2	s5.68(2) & s5.69(5) Admin Reg 21A	Were all decisions regarding participation approval, including the extent of participation allowed and, where relevant, the information required by the <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> regulation 21A, recorded in the minutes of the relevant council or committee meeting?	Yes	
3	s5.73	Were disclosures under sections 5.65, 5.70 or 5.71A(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the disclosures were made?	Yes	



4	s5.75 Admin Reg 22, Form 2	Was a primary return in the prescribed form lodged by all relevant persons within three months of their start day?	Yes	
5	s5.76 Admin Reg 23, Form 3	Was an annual return in the prescribed form lodged by all relevant persons by 31 August 2024?	Yes	
6	s5.77	On receipt of a primary or annual return, did the CEO, or the Mayor/President, give written acknowledgment of having received the return?	Yes	
7	s5.88(1) & (2)(a)	Did the CEO keep a register of financial interests which contained the returns lodged under sections 5.75 and 5.76 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> ?	Yes	
8	s5.88(1) & (2)(b) Admin Reg 28	Did the CEO keep a register of financial interests which contained a record of disclosures made under sections 5.65, 5.70, 5.71 and 5.71A of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , in the form prescribed in the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, regulation 28?	Yes	
9	s5.88(3)	When a person ceased to be a person required to lodge a return under sections 5.75 and 5.76 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , did the CEO remove from the register all returns relating to that person?	Yes	
10	s5.88(4)	Have all returns removed from the register in accordance with section 5.88(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> been kept for a period of at least five years after the person who lodged the return(s) ceased to be a person required to lodge a return?	Yes	
11	s5.89A(1), (2) & (3) Admin Reg 28A	Did the CEO keep a register of gifts which contained a record of disclosures made under sections 5.87A and 5.87B of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , in the form prescribed in the <i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> , regulation 28A?	Yes	
12	s5.89A(5) & (5A)	Did the CEO publish an up-to-date version of the gift register on the local government's website?	Yes	
13	s5.89A(6)	When people cease to be a person who is required to make a disclosure under section 5.87A or 5.87B of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , did the CEO remove from the register all records relating to those people?	Yes	
14	s5.89A(7)	Have copies of all records removed from the register under section 5.89A(6) <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> been kept for a period of at least five years after the person ceases to be a person required to make a disclosure?	Yes	



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

15	s5.70(2) & (3)	Where an employee had an interest in any matter in respect of which the employee provided advice or a report directly to council or a committee, did that person disclose the nature and extent of that interest when giving the advice or report?	Yes	
16	s5.71A & s5.71B(5)	Where council applied to the Minister to allow the CEO to provide advice or a report to which a disclosure under section 5.71A(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> relates, did the application include details of the nature of the interest disclosed and any other information required by the Minister for the purposes of the application?	N/A	
17	s5.71B(6) & s5.71B(7)	Was any decision made by the Minister under section 5.71B(6) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , recorded in the minutes of the council meeting at which the decision was considered?	N/A	
18	s5.104(1)	Did the local government prepare and adopt, by absolute majority, a code of conduct to be observed by council members, committee members and candidates that incorporates the model code of conduct?	Yes	16/02/2021 and reviewed annually
19	s5.104(3) & (4)	Did the local government adopt additional requirements in addition to the model code of conduct? If yes, does it comply with section 5.104(3) and (4) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> ?	No	
20	s5.104(7)	Has the CEO published an up-to-date version of the code of conduct for council members, committee members and candidates on the local government's website?	Yes	
21	s5.51A(1) & (3)	Has the CEO prepared and implemented a code of conduct to be observed by employee of the local government? If yes, has the CEO published an up-to-date version of the code of conduct for employees on the local government's website?	Yes	15/06/2021 reviewed annually

Disposal of Property				
No	Reference	Question	Response	Comments



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

1	s3.58(3)	Where the local government disposed of property other than by public auction or tender, did it dispose of the property in accordance with section 3.58(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (unless section 3.58(5) applies)?	Yes	
2	s3.58(4)	Where the local government disposed of property under section 3.58(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , did it provide details, as prescribed by section 3.58(4) of the Act, in the required local public notice for each disposal of property?	Yes	

Elections

No	Reference	Question	Response	Comments
1	Elect Regs 30G(1) & (2)	Did the CEO establish and maintain an electoral gift register and ensure that all disclosure of gifts forms completed by candidates and donors and received by the CEO were placed on the electoral gift register at the time of receipt by the CEO and in a manner that clearly identifies and distinguishes the forms relating to each candidate in accordance with regulations 30G(1) and 30G(2) of the <i>Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997</i> ?	Yes	No gift disclosures
2	Elect Regs 30G(3) & (4)	Did the CEO remove any disclosure of gifts forms relating to an unsuccessful candidate, or a successful candidate that completed their term of office, from the electoral gift register, and retain those forms separately for a period of at least two years in accordance with regulation 30G(4) of the <i>Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997</i> ?	N/A	No disclosures
3	Elect Regs 30G(5) & (6)	Did the CEO publish an up-to-date version of the electoral gift register on the local government's official website in accordance with regulation 30G(5) of the <i>Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997</i> ?	Yes	

Finance

No	Reference	Question	Response	Comments
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7.3 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Applicant:	Shire of Corrigin
Date:	4/03/2025
Reporting Officer:	Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest:	NIL
File Ref:	FM.0015
Attachment Ref:	NIL

SUMMARY

The Committee is requested to review and endorse the updated Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Reform Act 2024* requires all local governments to update the structure and name of their Audit Committees to an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Other key changes include the requirement for an independent chair and an independent proxy chair to preside over meetings.

The tracked changes within the Terms of Reference highlight the required updates for clarity and ease of review.

COMMENT

The proposed amendments ensure compliance with the new legislative requirements while maintaining the Committee's role in overseeing audit, risk, and continuous improvement functions.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Amendment Act 2024

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Shire of Corrigin Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031 and Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025:

Objective: Governance and Leadership **Strong Governance and leadership**

Strategic Community Plan		Corporate Business Plan	
Outcome	Strategies	Action No.	Actions
4.5	Implement systems and processes that meet legislative and audit obligations	4.5.1	Continual improvement in governance and operational policies, processes and implementation.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr. Hickey

Seconded: Cr Filinski

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee endorse the updated Terms of Reference, including the new committee name, and recommend that Council adopt the changes.

Carried 4/0

For: Cr. Hickey, Cr. Jacobs, Cr. Filinski & Cr. Leach

Against: NIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Regulation 16 of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* states that:

An audit committee has the following functions —

- (a) to guide and assist the local government in carrying out —
 - (i) its functions under Part 6 of the Act; and
 - (ii) its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management;
- (b) to guide and assist the local government in carrying out the local government's functions in relation to audits conducted under Part 7 of the Act;
- (c) to review a report given to it by the CEO under regulation 17(3) (the **CEO's report**) and is to —
 - (i) report to the council the results of that review; and
 - (ii) give a copy of the CEO's report to the council;
- (d) to monitor and advise the CEO when the CEO is carrying out functions in relation to a review under —
 - (i) regulation 17(1); and
 - (ii) the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* regulation 5(2)(c);
- (e) to support the auditor of the local government to conduct an audit and carry out the auditor's other duties under the Act in respect of the local government;
- (f) to oversee the implementation of any action that the local government —
 - (i) is required to take by section 7.12A(3); and
 - (ii) has stated it has taken or intends to take in a report prepared under section 7.12A(4)(a); and
 - (iii) has accepted should be taken following receipt of a report of a review conducted under regulation 17(1); and
 - (iv) has accepted should be taken following receipt of a report of a review conducted under the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* regulation 5(2)(c);

- ~~(g) to perform any other function conferred on the audit committee by these regulations or another written law.~~

~~An audit committee—~~

- ~~a) is to provide guidance and assistance to the local government—~~
- ~~i. as to the carrying out of its functions in relation to audits carried out under Part 7 of the Act; and~~
 - ~~ii. as to the development of a process to be used to select and appoint a person to be an auditor; and~~
- ~~b) may provide guidance and assistance to the local government as to—~~
- ~~i. matters to be audited; and~~
 - ~~ii. the scope of audits; and~~
 - ~~iii. its functions under Part 6 of the Act; and~~
 - ~~iv. the carrying out of its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management; and~~
- ~~c) is to review a report given to it by the CEO under regulation 17(3) (the CEO's report) and is to—~~
- ~~i. report to the council the results of that review; and~~
 - ~~ii. give a copy of the CEO's report to the council.~~

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Council of the Shire of Corrigin (hereinafter called the Council) hereby establishes a committee under the powers given in *Section 5.8* and *Section 7.1 A* of the *Local Government Act 1995*, *Local Government Amendment Act 2004-2024* and *Audit Regulations*, such committee to be known as the Audit, ~~Risk and Improvement~~ and ~~Risk Management~~ Committee, (hereinafter called the Committee). The Council appoints to the Committee those persons whose names appear in Section 5.0 below.

Membership of the Committee shall, unless otherwise specified, be for a term ceasing at the date of the Local Government election in the year the Shire's local government elections are held, after which time the Council may appoint members for a further term. The Committee shall act for and on behalf of Council in accordance with provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and associated regulations, local laws and policies of the Shire of Corrigin and this Instrument.

2.0 NAME

The name of the Committee shall be the Audit, ~~and Risk~~ ~~and Improvement~~ Management Committee.

3.0 ROLE

The Committee's role is to report to Council and provide appropriate advice and recommendations on matters relevant to its objectives in order to facilitate decision-making by Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities.

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 To provide guidance and assistance to the Council in:

- a) carrying out its audit functions under Part 7 of the *Local Government Act*.
- b) the development of a process to be used to select and appoint an auditor.
- c) determining the scope and content of the external and internal audit and advising on the general financial management of the Shire.
- d) overseeing the audit process and meeting with the external auditor after each visit to discuss management issues and monitoring administration's actions on, and responses to, any significant matters raised by the auditor.

- e) evaluating and making recommendations to Council on internal and external audit reports prior to them being presented to Council.
- f) receiving and verifying the annual Local Government Statutory Compliance Return.
- g) review reports provided by the CEO on the Shire's systems and procedures in relation to:
 - i. risk management;
 - ii. internal control; and
 - iii. legislative compliance;

at least once every two years and report to Council the results of that review. Ref: *Functions of Audit Committees (Audit Regulations)*.

- 4.2 To advise Council on significant high level strategic risk management issues related to the Shire of Corrigin including issues involving:
- a) the community;
 - b) the workforce;
 - c) vehicles and plant;
 - d) buildings and similar property;
 - e) revenue streams;
 - f) legal liability;
 - g) electronically stored information;
 - h) environmental impact;
 - i) fraud; and
 - j) reputation.

5.0 MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of all Councillors. Additionally, up to two independent consultants with expertise in financial or legal matters will be called upon as required to provide additional independent external advice to the Committee. The external independent persons will have senior business, legal or financial management/reporting knowledge and experience, and be conversant with the financial and other reporting requirements.

Appointments of external consultants shall be made by the CEO following a decision of Council and the allocation of sufficient funds to provide consultation fees using relevant professional fee schedules. No member of staff including the CEO is to be a member of the Committee, but the CEO may participate as Council's principal advisor, unless expressly excluded by resolution of the Committee.

6.0 PRESIDING MEMBER

~~The President will take the role of Presiding Member and Deputy President the role of Deputy Presiding Member to conduct its business.~~

The Presiding Member shall ensure that minutes of the proceedings are kept and that business is conducted in accordance with the Shire of Corrigin Standing Orders (Local Law).

The *Local Government Act 1995* places responsibility for speaking on behalf of Council with the President, or the CEO if the President agrees. The Presiding Member if different from the President is to refrain from speaking publicly on behalf of the committee or Council, or to issue any form of written material purporting to speak on behalf of the committee or Council without the prior approval of the President.

7.0 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at least three times per year. A schedule of meetings will be developed and agreed to by the members. As an indicative guide, meetings would be arranged to coincide with relevant Council reporting deadlines, for example in February to

discuss the Statutory Compliance Return, in July to discuss the year's financial performance and to discuss the annual audit program and in November to discuss the Annual Financial Report. Additional meetings shall be convened at the discretion of the Presiding Member.

Any three members of the Committee collectively or the internal or external auditor themselves may request the Presiding Member to convene a meeting. Urgent matters which may arise should be referred directly to Council through the monthly meetings or to a Special Council meeting.

- 7.1 Notice of meetings shall be given to members at least three days prior to each meeting.
- 7.2 The Presiding Member shall ensure that detailed minutes of all meetings are kept and shall, not later than five days after each meeting, provide Council with a copy of such minutes. Council shall provide secretarial and administrative support to the Committee.
- 7.3 All members of the Committee shall have one vote. If the vote of the members present is equally divided, the person presiding must cast a second vote.
- 7.4 The Chief Executive Officer should attend all meetings, except when the Committee chooses to meet in camera with the exclusion of the CEO.
- 7.5 Representatives of the external auditor should be invited to attend at the discretion of the Committee but must attend meetings either in person or by telephone link up considering the draft annual financial report and results of the external audit.
- 7.6 The internal auditor or representative shall be invited to attend meetings, at the discretion of the Committee, to consider internal audit matters.

8.0 QUORUM

A quorum for a meeting shall be at least 50 percent of the number of members, whether vacant or not. A decision of the Committee does not have effect unless a simple majority has made it.

9.0 DELEGATED POWERS

The Committee has no delegated powers under the *Local Government Act 1995* and is to advise and make recommendations to Council only.

The Audit, ~~Risk and Improvement Committee and Risk Management Committee~~ is a formally appointed committee of Council and is responsible to that body.

The ~~Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Audit and Risk Management Committee~~ does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and does not have any delegated financial responsibility. The Committee does not have any management functions and is therefore independent of management.

The following guidelines are to provide further direction from Council for the operation of the Committee:

9.1 External Audit

The Committee shall:

- Liaise with the Office of the Auditor General regarding the appointment of a suitable Auditor.
- Prior to appointment, discuss the scope of the audit and any additional procedures required from the external auditor. Invite the external auditor to attend audit committee meetings to discuss the audit results and consider the implications of the external audit findings.
- Inquire of the auditor if there have been any significant disagreements with

management and whether they have been resolved.

- Monitor management responses to the auditor's findings and recommendations.
- Review the progress by management in implementing audit recommendations and provide assistance on matters of conflict.
- Provide a report and recommendations to Council on the outcome of the external audit.

9.2 Co-ordination of Auditors

The Committee shall:

- Oversee the work of the internal audit function to facilitate co-ordination with the external auditor.
- Meet periodically with the Chief Executive Officer, senior management staff and internal and external auditors to understand the organisation's control environment and processes.

9.3 Duties and Responsibilities

The following duties and responsibilities of the Committee will include:

- i. To review the scope of the internal audit plan and program and the effectiveness of the function. This review should consider whether, over a period of years the internal audit plan systematically addresses:
 - internal controls over significant areas of risk, including non-financial management control systems.
 - internal controls over revenue, expenditure, assets and liability processes;
 - the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of significant Council programs; and
 - compliance with regulations, policies, best practice guidelines, instructions and contractual arrangements.
- ii. Review the appropriateness of special internal audit assignments undertaken by internal audit at the request of Council or Chief Executive Officer.
- iii. Review the level of resources allocated to internal audit and the scope of its authority.
- iv. Review reports of internal audit and the extent to which Council and management react to matters raised by internal audit, by monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by internal audit.
- v. Facilitate liaison between the internal and external auditor to promote compatibility, to the extent appropriate, between their audit programs.
- vi. Critically analyse and follow up any internal or external audit report that raises significant issues relating to risk management, internal control, financial reporting and other accountability or governance issues, and any other matters relevant under the Committee's terms of reference.
- vii. Review management's response to, and actions taken as a result of the issues raised.
- viii. Monitor the risk exposure of Council by determining if management has appropriate risk management processes and adequate management information systems.
- ix. Monitor ethical standards and related party transactions by determining whether the systems of control are adequate.
- x. Review Council's draft annual financial report, focusing on:
 - accounting policies and practices.
 - changes to accounting policies and practices.
 - the process used in making significant accounting estimates.
 - significant adjustments to the financial report (if any) arising from the audit process.
 - compliance with accounting standards and other reporting requirements.
 - significant variances from prior years.
- xi. Recommend adoption of the annual financial report to Council. Review any significant changes that may arise subsequent to any such recommendation but before the financial report is signed.

- xii. Discuss with the external auditor the scope of the audit and the planning of the audit.
- xiii. Discuss with the external auditor issues arising from the audit, including any management letter issued by the auditor and the resolution of such matters.
- xiv. Review tendering arrangements and advise Council.
- xv. Review the annual performance statement and recommend its adoption to Council.
- xvi. Review issues relating to national competition policy, financial reporting by Council business units and comparative performance indicators.
- xvii. Identify and refer specific projects or investigations deemed necessary through the Chief Executive Officer, the internal auditor and the Council if appropriate. Oversee any subsequent investigation, including overseeing of the investigation of any suspected cases of fraud within the organisation.
- xviii. Monitor the progress of any major lawsuits facing the Council.
- xix. Address issues brought to the attention of the Committee, including responding to requests from Council for advice that are within the parameters of the Committee's terms of reference.
- xx. Report to Council after each meeting, in the form of minutes or otherwise, and as necessary and provide an annual report to Council summarising the activities undertaken during the year.
- xxi. The Committee in conjunction with Council and the Chief Executive Officer should develop the Committee's performance indicators.
- xxii. The Committee, through the Chief Executive Officer and following authorisation from the Council, and within the scope of its responsibilities, may seek information or obtain expert advice on matters of concern.
- xxiii. Advise Council on significant risk management issues related to the Shire of Corrigin including major issues involving:
 - The Community;
 - The Workforce;
 - Vehicles and Plant;
 - Buildings and Similar Property;
 - Revenue Streams;
 - Legal Liability;
 - Electronically Stored Information;
 - Environmental Impact;
 - Fraud; and
 - Reputation.
- xxiv. Review reports on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Shire's systems and procedures in relation to:
 - risk management;
 - internal control; and
 - legislative complianceand report to Council.

9.4 Reporting Powers

The Committee:

- Shall report to Council and provide recommendations on matters pertaining to its terms of reference by assisting elected members in the discharge of their responsibilities for oversight and corporate governance of the local government.
- Does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas that management has responsibility.
- Is independent of the roles of the Chief Executive Officer and his senior staff as it does not have any management functions.
- Does not have any role pertaining to matters normally addressed by the Local Emergency Management Committee and Council in relation to financial management responsibilities in relation to budgets, financial decisions and expenditure priorities.

- Is a separate activity and does not have any role in relation to day-to-day financial management issues or any executive role or power.
- Shall after every meeting forward the minutes of that meeting to the next Ordinary meeting of the Council, including a report explaining any specific recommendations and key outcomes.
- Shall report annually to the Council summarising the activities of the Committee during the previous financial year.

10.0 TERMINATION OF COMMITTEE

Termination of the Committee shall be:

- a) in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*; or
- b) at the direction of the Council.

11.0 AMENDMENT TO THE INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND DELEGATION

This document may be altered at any time by the Council.

12.0 COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Committee recommendations are advisory only and shall not be binding on Council.

8 NEXT MEETING

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting to be held on 10 June 2025 at 6.00pm

9 MEETING CLOSURE

The Deputy President Cr. S Jacobs closed the meeting at 6:18pm.