Berneslai Homes Audit & Risk Committee 9th April 2026 – Meeting Summary:

BH Investment Strategy
Committee received a presentation from Barnsley Council which set out the Company's Annual Investment Strategy and the organisation's investment priorities for 2026/27. An overview of treasury management was provided together with investment policy principles. Committee agreed the recommendations on investment limits, investment instruments, scheme of delegation, the policy statement and that these be put forward for approval by Berneslai Homes' Board.
Risk Reporting Quarterly Update (including Contingent Liabilities Register
Committee reviewed and commented on the Risk Management Quarterly update and the Strategic Risks. An interim update on the implementation of a refreshed Risk Register Framework will be given to Committee prior to this being submitted for approval by Berneslai Homes' Board in May.
External Quality Assessment for Internal Audit Services
Committee received a report which outlined the approach to undertake an independent External Quality Assessment (EQA) of Barnsley Council's Internal Audit function in compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards UK Public Sector (GIAS), which came into effect in April 2025. The EQA will commence in July 2026. Committee noted and endorsed the approach to use CIPFA as the independent consultants to undertake the EQA and to subsequently participate in the assessment process as required.
Corporate Assurance Activity Report
Committee received and considered a report which provided Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance Team's progress against the 2025/26 agreed plan of assurance work for Berneslai Homes Ltd for the period 5th January 2026 to 18th March 2026.
Corporate Assurance Fraud Update Committee received a report from Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance which provided an update on the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team's work for Berneslai Homes for the period 1st April 2025 to 10th March 2026. A summary of alleged Tenancy Fraud referrals was provided for information together with the positive outcomes. Committee noted and were satisfied with the progress made during this period.

Agreed Management Actions

Committee received and considered the monthly update on the status of Agreed Management Actions.

Health & Safety Landlord Compliance - Risks and Controls

Committee received a report which gave an update on the performance of Berneslai Homes in delivering key services as set out in the Health & Safety Landlord Compliance report as at the end of February 2026. The scorecard has been refreshed and is now presented by exception only, focussing on compliance measures that are below 100%. Compliance remained strong across the major areas of compliance, including the main Tenant Satisfaction Measures for Fire, Asbestos, Water and Lift Safety. Committee reviewed and noted the updated Report and the areas of focus.

Committee Governance Update

Committee received a report which provided key updates on governance issues for the Committee covering the refreshed Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report and Self-Assessment (aligned to the Terms of Reference and the National Housing Federation Code of Governance) and the new Audit & Risk Committee Co-optee Role Profile. Committee noted the new self-assessment for completion in line with the Committee Annual Report to June Committee and approved the new Audit & Risk Committee Co-optee Role Profile for final approval by Berneslai Homes Board.

External Audit Update – Addendum to BDO Audit Planning Report for the year ended 31st March 2026

Committee received a report which provided an update on an addendum issued by BDO LLP to their Audit Planning Report for the year ended 31st March 2026. The original Audit Planning Report was presented to the Committee on the 29th January 2026. The updated Audit Planning report was presented for information. The report supports Berneslai Homes' compliance with its statutory obligations under the Companies Act 2006, including the requirement to publish audited Annual Report and Financial Statements and aligns with regulatory and governance requirements. Committee reviewed the addendum added to the BDO Audit Planning Report.