Berneslai Homes Audit & Risk Committee 25th June 2026 – Meeting Summary:

Risk Reporting Quarterly Update
Committee reviewed and commented on the Risk Management Quarterly update and the Strategic Risks together with a comprehensive deep dive of the Modern Slavery Statement. Following implementation of the revised risk management framework, an assurance map is being developed to support the Annual Governance Statement and will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in August 2026. Committee were assured on the organisational work carried out to comply with legislation combatting modern slavery.
Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report to Board
Committee received a report which provided an annual overview of activities undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee during the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 and through self-assessment opportunities identified for further development. Committee recommended the report is presented to Berneslai Homes' Board to provide assurance that the Committee is fulfilling its remit in line with the Terms of Reference.
Corporate Assurance Mandate, Charter & Strategy 2025-2028 – Update
Committee considered and approved Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance (Internal Audit) Mandate and Charter & Strategy and were assured that the Corporate Assurance function operates in accordance with the relevant standards.
Corporate Assurance Annual Report
Committee received and considered the opinion provided by the Council's Head of Corporate Assurance (Internal Audit) based upon work of the Council's Corporate Assurance Team, on adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's governance, risk management and control arrangements relating to the year ended 31st March 2026. Committee approved the review of the Company's Shared Financial System 2025/26.
Corporate Assurance Effectiveness
Committee received a report from Barnsley Council's Corporate Assurance on the annual self-assessment to measure compliance against the new Global Internal Audit Standards UK (GIAS) that became effective on the 1st April 2025. The requirement to undertake an annual self-assessment, to have an external quality assessment (EQA) every 5 years and to maintain a Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) for the Corporate Assurance (Internal Audit) function is required by the GIAS. Committee considered and assessed the proposed QAIP Framework which sets out how it will meet the requirements set out in the GIAS and that a mid-year update report will be received to confirm progress made in the implementation of the QAIP.

Agreed Management Actions
Committee received and noted the report on the improved Executive Management oversight, monitoring and reporting of Agreed Management Actions.
Annual Data Protection/Information Security/DPO Report and Information Governance and Security Compliance Annual Report
Committee reviewed a report which provided assurance on the governance activity being undertaken within Berneslai Homes.
Assurance Register – Confirmation of Legal/Regulatory Returns (6 Monthly Update)
Committee Members noted the report and were assured that appropriate arrangements are in place to monitor statutory and regulatory submissions.
Health and Safety Landlord Compliance Risks & 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 and Safety Landlord Compliance report at the end of April 2026, noting that the report has been refreshed and now supports an exception-based reporting approach so scrutiny can focus on measures that are below 100%. Performance remained good across the major areas of compliance. Committee considered the exception-based Building Safety Information and the areas of focus.
Whistleblowing Annual Report
Committee received and reviewed the annual report on the whistleblowing arrangements at Berneslai Homes and were assured that effective whistleblowing arrangements are in place.