

**Report from Chair of Audit Committee**

Date of Committee 13 November 2025

Item	Summary of Item	Committee Decision	Further Work Required	Referral Elsewhere for Further Work	Recommendation to Board
<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	Minutes from the last meeting on 11 September 2025	<b>Approved</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>Matters Arising</b>	Update on compliance with Trust policies	<b>Assured</b> , noting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Robust processes related to requests for policy extensions and reporting of these</li> <li>- Importance of updating colleagues following the publication of a new or revised policy</li> <li>- All policies contained a 'monitoring' section to support an assessment of compliance</li> </ul>	None – action closed	Trust wide Policy Sub Group to ensure policy owners have assessed compliance as part of renewal process	n/a
<b>EPPR Annual Report on Preparedness</b>	Update on requirements related to Trust Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response (EPPR) as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004	<b>Assured</b> , noting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full compliance with 62 standards</li> <li>- The need to prepare for physical security threats on site and ensure colleagues understand how to enact plans</li> <li>- The management of capacity changes (e.g. Emergency Department reconfiguration) through the Resilience Committee and the OPEL framework</li> </ul>	Further work to be undertaken re: staff awareness of plans and the ability to enact these in a timely manner	n/a	To <b>note</b> full compliance and discussions related to this

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<b>Organisational Risk</b>	Overview of risk within the Trust including details from the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) and Board Assurance Framework (BAF)	<p><b>Assured</b>, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Escalation/de-escalation of risks to/from the CRR since the last meeting with updates on these</li> <li>- Work by the Risk &amp; Compliance Monitoring Group (RCMG) to improve risk management processes</li> <li>- Recent internal audit review of risk management processes (report currently in draft)</li> </ul>	<p>Provision of greater detail on risks new to the CRR</p> <p>Review risks within the BAF and CRR aligned to the NHS 10-Year Plan</p> <p>Restart deep dive programme into top scoring risks</p>	n/a	n/a
<b>Committee Review</b> Quality & Clinical Governance Committee (Q&CGC)	Review of the Committee terms of reference alongside those risks for which the Committee has oversight and the workplan for 2025/26	<p>The Committee <b>discussed</b> Q&amp;CGC duties and were <b>assured</b> by the framework in place, recognising the significant breadth of scope of this Committee</p> <p>The following were <b>noted</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work to support efficient governance within those groups reporting into Q&amp;CGC</li> <li>- Use of Digital Health Programme Board to consider the impact of technology on people, quality and safety</li> <li>- Reporting mechanisms for Mortuary services</li> <li>- Revised set of quality metrics which focussed on outcomes as well as processes</li> </ul>	<p>The need to support a focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More transformational work as well as quality and safety at the present time</li> <li>- Integrated Neighbourhood Teams</li> </ul>	n/a	n/a

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External Audit	Verbal update on current position	<b>Noted</b> , including progress to date with the Charitable Funds audit	None	n/a	n/a
Internal Audit; Progress Report	Update on progress with annual plan and presentation of finalised reports: - New Worker Protection Part 1 – <i>advisory</i> - Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) – <i>reasonable assurance</i>	<b>Assured</b> , noting the following: - New worker protection arrangements had been set up appropriately within the Trust - Work required to ensure all actions resulting from incident investigations were completed in a timely manner, recognising these needed to add value and improve overall processes and outcomes for patients through prevention of future incidents	None	n/a	n/a
Internal Audit; Recommendations Follow Up Report	Update on actions and recommendations followed up since the last meeting	<b>Noted</b> , including the positive position	None	n/a	n/a
Green Plan	Three-year roadmap for delivering NHS Net Zero and embedding sustainability across all operations and services.  Plan reflective of and compliant with updated NHS England guidance, BOB ICB Green Plan and BHT Strategy 2025-35	<b>Assured</b> , noting the following: - Importance of colleague engagement and integration of sustainability into organisational processes and business as usual - Future plans for transformation should include Net Zero impact - Alignment of patient travel reduction with 10-year plan 3 shifts. - Future plans for managing residual emissions	Organisational strategy in this area to support financial prioritisation	Consider Board developmental session re: sustainability	

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<b>Losses &amp; Special Payments</b>	Summary of these between September-October 2025	<b>Assured</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>Compliance with Procurement Guidance and Legislation</b>	Overview of single tender waivers, and potential breaches of regulation, since the last meeting including comparative data	<b>Assured</b>	Greater horizon scanning processes for AI tools to support clinical practice to enable these to be adopted in a timely manner	n/a	n/a
<b>RSM Briefings</b>	Documents provided by internal auditors for information including: - News Briefing, focussed on the introduction of new technology within the sector - Emerging risk radar, Autumn 2025	Noted	None	n/aa	n/a
<b>Minutes of Finance &amp; Business Performance Committee</b>	Minutes from the F&BP Committee Meeting on 23 September 2025	<b>Noted</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>Minutes of Quality &amp; Clinical Governance Committee</b>	Minutes from the Q&CG Committee Meeting on 17 September 2025	<b>Noted</b>	None	n/a	n/a
<b>Minutes of Strategic People Committee</b>	Minutes from the SPC Committee Meeting on 22 September 2025	<b>Noted</b>	None	n/a	n/a

**Emerging risks identified:**

- Need to review and revise current risks in line with the NHS 10-Year Plan.
- Separate risk related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) from Cybersecurity noting a plan was in place to action this.