Audit & Assurance Committee

Membership:
Minimum of 3 Board members. Up to 2 Independent committee members. No executive on committee

Purpose:
Provide independent assurance, support and advice to the Board on the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, audit, internal control frameworks and activities

1st September 2026

The Committee reviewed the emerging risks, expected events and horizon scanning update. Discussion included the continued uncertainty in the wider operating environment, trends in disrepair claims, preparations for new regulatory requirements, and the growing use of AI in complaints and information requests. Members noted both the potential benefits for residents and the additional complexity this can create for colleagues handling cases.

The strategic risk register, Douglas House, THB and HomeTeam27 risk maps were reviewed. Members noted that risks continue to be actively monitored, with particular attention to wider economic pressures, delivery of HomeTeam27, and ensuring organisational controls remain strong while major change activity is underway.

The compliance and building safety report provided assurance that performance against the main statutory and regulatory areas remains strong. The Committee also received updates on fire risk actions, Awaab's Law, and ongoing engagement with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

The annual review of the damp and mould deep dive found that no new recommendations were required. The Committee noted continued progress, including the role of KIT visits, stock condition surveys and wider ways of identifying issues in residents' homes.

Internal audit reports on HomeTeam27 and landlord health and safety were considered. The HomeTeam27 audit provided substantial assurance, while the landlord health and safety audit highlighted improvements needed to systems, evidence and process rather than any immediate resident safety concern. Updates were also received on internal audit progress, management actions, regulatory returns, insurance assurance and external audit performance.

The next Audit & Assurance Committee meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 10th November 2026.