



MUNISIPALITEIT DAWID KRUIPER MUNICIPALITY

POLICY 009/2025 RAADSBELEID

SUBJECT/ONDERWERP: **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

REFERENCE/VERWYSING: 5.14.1.2.B

RESOLUTION NR/BESLUIT NO: 21.1/05/2025 (CM)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Definitions as applicable in the Charter
2. Introduction
3. Legislation and Regulations governing Internal Audit
4. Overall objective
5. Authority
6. Composition
7. Meetings and frequency
8. Termination of membership
9. Compensation
10. Responsibilities
11. Combined Assurance
12. Reporting
13. Evaluation of the performance of the Audit Committee
14. Review period
15. Approval

1. DEFINITIONS AS APPLICABLE IN THE CHARTER

“MFMA”: Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003

“Council”: Shall be the Municipal Council of Dawid Kruiper Municipality

“CAE”: Chief Audit Executive is hereby referred to as the Senior Manager Internal Audit.

“Accounting Officer”: Shall be the Municipal Manager of the Dawid Kruiper Municipality

“Chairperson”: Shall be the person appointed by the Council of Dawid Kruiper Municipality to preside

over meetings as outlined in the MFMA.

“The Committee” herein shall be referred to as the Audit Committee

“GIAS” - Global Internal Audit Standards as published by the Institute of Internal Auditors

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Audit Committee of the Dawid Kruiper Municipality is an advisory independent committee established by the Council in terms of Section 166 of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003, as amended.
- 2.2 The written terms of reference guide the Audit Committee with regard to its membership, authority, duties and responsibilities and details the manner in which the Audit Committee shall operate.

3 PURPOSE

The Audit Committee amongst others provide an Oversight responsibility on internal financial control, internal audits; risk management; accounting policies; the adequacy, reliability and accuracy of financial reporting and information; performance management; effective governance and compliance with act and Division of revenue act with any other applicable legislation and performance evaluation.

4. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The Committee must advise Council and the Administration of the Dawid Kruiper Municipality on matters relating to internal financial controls and internal audits; risk management; accounting policies; Adequacy, reliability and accuracy of financial reporting and information; performance management; effective governance; compliance with the Act, the annual Division of Revenue Act and applicable legislation as well as performance evaluations.

5. AUTHORITY

The audit committee shall have the authority to perform functions, and obtain any information from within or outside the municipality in order to perform its functions as legislated. Appropriate resources will be made available to the audit committee to perform its functions as agreed in this charter. It shall:

- Communicate with the Council, Accounting Officer or the Internal and External Auditors of the municipality;
- Have access to municipal records containing information that is needed to perform its duties or exercise its powers.
- Request relevant persons to attend any of its meetings, and, if necessary, to provide information requested by the committee; and
- Conduct investigations into the financial affairs of the municipality, as may be requested by the council of the municipality.

6. COMPOSITION

- 6.1 Council will appoint the Committee members as well as the Chairperson (*“Chairperson”*) of the Committee.
- 6.2 The Committee will comprise of at least 3 and not exceed 5 members and all members shall be independent and not employees of the municipality.

- 6.3 A quorum of a meeting will be at least half of the members of the Committee with a minimum of 2.
- 6.4 Each member should have skills and experience appropriate to the municipality's business.
- 6.5 The Chairperson of the Risk Management Committee forms part of the Audit Committee to ensure collaboration between the Audit Committee and the Risk Management Committee.
- 6.6 An audit committee member shall declare conflicting private and business interest if it is relevant to an item on the agenda of an audit committee meeting.
- 6.7 Members shall at least be financial proficient and at least one of the members must be an accountant or related financial expertise; at least one member must have expertise in performance management; while the Committee members should have a collective understanding of matters such as sustainability reporting, internal and financial controls, internal and external audit processes, major accounting practices and public sector reporting, treatment of allegations and investigations, service delivery priorities, municipal law, risk management, information technology as it relates to integrated reporting, and governance processes within the municipality and community affairs.
- 6.8 MFMA Circular 65 determines as follows: *"Members of the audit committee **should not** be contracted continuously for a period exceeding six years."* Members will be appointed for a term of three years and may not serve for more than two years unless otherwise decided by Council.
- 6.9 When Council want to extends a member for more than two years, than the following must be considered:
- The Circular is stated *"should not"*, it can therefore be interpreted that it is not a must but rather a best practice.
 - Northern Cape Municipalities are struggling to get competent people to serve on the Audit Committees.
 - Members are normally headhunted and the people that we headhunt also do not want to be paid in accordance with the Circulars.
 - Does the AG provide assurance annually on the work of the Audit Committee as well as Internal Audit?
 - Does the Audit Committee assist Internal Audit in such a way that Management provides full cooperation to Internal Audit?
 - Is there a good trustworthy relationship between Council, Accounting Officer and the Audit Committee as the Council and the Accounting Officer implements recommendations made by the Audit Committee?
 - Does Council annually provide a good evaluation of the Audit Committee?

7 MEETINGS AND FREQUENCY

- 7.1 The secretary of the Committee will be the Directorate Corporate Services of the Municipality.
- 7.2 Only Committee members are automatically entitled to attend meetings however it remains the committee's prerogative to invite other persons to its meetings as and when it deems necessary

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- 7.3 Senior Management of the municipality must attend all committee meetings.
- 7.4 Meetings shall be held not less than 4 times a year, with at least one meeting per quarter, and should as far as possible correspond with the municipality's financial reporting cycle.
- 7.5 Special meetings may be convened as required and any member of the Committee may call such a meeting, after consultation with the Chairperson. The secretary will convene a meeting on receipt of a request by the Chairperson.
- 7.6 The secretary shall circulate the agenda and supporting documentation to the Committee members 5 working days in advance of each meeting.
- 7.7 Members of the Committee should strive to attend every meeting of the Committee.
- 7.8 The following persons have standing invitations to all Audit Committee meetings, with no voting rights:
- Chairperson of MPAC
 - Accounting Officer (Senior Management) Directors
 - Senior Manager: Office of the Municipal Manager
 - Chief Audit Executive
 - Chief Risk Officer
 - Manager Performance Management
 - Head Internal Audit
 - Provincial Treasury (when necessary and requested)

8 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Council may terminate the membership of a member of the Committee should such member, in Council's opinion, by any acts or omissions not comply with the charter and legislation.

A committee member should give at least one months' notice prior to resignation, in order for due processes to take place with a replacement candidate member.

Shorter period for resignation will be tabled to the Council for consideration and approval.

Any member, who is absent without leave of absence from three consecutive Audits Committee meetings, may be removed from the Audit Committee by Council, unless acceptable and reasonable excuse had accompanied such absence.

All terminations will be tabled to Council for consideration and approval.

9 COMPENSATION

Audit Committee members not holding executive office in the organisation or not being in the public service shall be remunerated for their services on the Audit Committee based on meetings attended. Remuneration shall be determined by Council in line with guidelines issued by National Treasury.

10 RESPONSIBILITIES

The committee will carry out amongst others the following responsibilities:

Financial Statements

- Review the annual financial statements and consider whether they are fairly presented, complete and reflect appropriate accounting principles;
- Review other sections of the annual report and related regulatory filings before release and consider the accuracy and completeness of the information;
- Review with management and the external auditors all matters required to be communicated to the committee under the standards or legislation; and
- Understand how management develops interim financial information, and the nature and extent of internal and external auditor involvement.

Internal Control

- Consider the effectiveness of the organisation's system of internal control, including information technology security and control; and
- Understand the scope of internal and external auditors' review of internal control over financial reporting, and obtain reports on significant findings and recommendations, together with management's responses.

Internal Audit

To establish, maintain, and ensure that Dawid Kruiper Municipality's Internal Audit function has sufficient authority to fulfill its duties, the Audit Committee will:

- Discuss with the Chief Audit Executive and Senior Management the appropriate authority, role, responsibilities, scope, and services (assurance and/or advisory) of the internal audit function.
- Ensure the Chief Audit Executive has unrestricted access to and communicates and interacts directly with the Audit Committee, including in private meetings without Senior Management present.
- Discuss with the Chief Audit Executive and Senior Management other topics that should be included in the Internal Audit Charter.
- Participate in discussions with the Chief Audit Executive and Senior Management about the "essential conditions," described in the Global Internal Audit Standards, which establish the foundation that enables an effective Internal Audit function.
- Approve the Internal Audit function's charter, which includes the Internal Audit mandate and the scope and types of Internal Audit services.
- Review the Internal Audit Charter annually with the Chief Audit Executive to consider changes affecting the organization, such as the employment of a new Chief Audit Executive or changes in the type, severity, and interdependencies of risks to the organization; and approve The Internal Audit Charter annually.
- Approve the Risk-Based Internal Audit Plan.
- Provide input to the Internal Audit function's human resources administration and budgets.
- Review the Internal Audit function's expenses.
- Provide input to the Accounting Officer on the appointment and removal of the Chief Audit Executive, ensuring adequate competencies and qualifications and conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards.
- Review and provide input to the Accounting Officer on the chief audit executive's performance.

- Receive communications from the Chief Audit Executive about the Internal Audit function including its performance relative to its plan.
- Ensure a quality assurance and improvement program has been established and review the results annually.
- Make appropriate inquiries of Senior Management and the Chief Audit Executive to determine whether scope or resource limitations are inappropriate.

External Audit

- Review the audit strategy of External Audit, including proposed audit fees.
- Ensure that there are no restrictions or limitations placed on the scope of External Audit.
- The committee shall take cognizance of the scope of work undertaken by External Audit and the extent of co-ordination with Internal Audit.
- Meet separately with External Audit if necessary.
- Ensure that management responds to audit findings and recommendations timely.
- Review of audit results, quality and contents of financial information and action plans of management.

Compliance

- Review the effectiveness of the system for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and the results of management's investigation and follow-up (including disciplinary action) of any instances of non-compliance;
- Review the findings of any examinations by regulatory agencies and any auditor observations; and
- Obtain regular updates from management and company legal counsel regarding compliance matters.

Performance Management

Carry out the functions of a performance audit committee and must thereby:

- Review the quarterly reports submitted by Internal Audit.
- Review the Municipality's performance management system and make recommendations in this regard to Council; and
- At least twice during a financial year submit a performance management audit report to Council.
- The Chairperson of the Committee shall be a member of the evaluation panels established in terms of the regulations issued under the Municipal Systems Act to evaluate the performance of the Accounting Officer and the managers directly accountable to the Accounting Officer.

Reporting Responsibilities

- Regularly report to Council about the committee activities, issues, and related recommendations;
- Provide an open avenue of communication between Internal Audit, the External Audit and management;
- Review any other reports that the entity issues relating to committee responsibilities;
- Perform other activities related to this charter as requested by the Accounting Officer;
- Institute and oversee special investigations as needed;
- Review and assess the adequacy of the committee charter annually, requesting Accounting Officer's approval for proposed changes and ensure appropriate disclosure as may be required by law or regulation;
- Confirm annually that all responsibilities outlined in this charter have been carried out; and
- Evaluate the committee's and individual members' performance on a regular basis.

11. COMBINED ASSURANCE

- The Audit Committee shall strive to ensure that a combined assurance model is applied to provide a coordinated approach to all assurance activities in line with the GIAS.
- The Audit Committee shall ensure that the combined assurance received is appropriate to address all the significant risk facing the municipality and monitor their relations.

12. REPORTING

- The Chairperson of the Audit Committee must report to Council all significant findings and concerns by the Internal Audit or External Audit
- In matters of urgency, the committee through its Chairperson (s) shall have a direct liaison with the Executive Mayor, Speaker and Accounting Officer.
- The Chairperson (s) of the committee shall report to the Council on its proceedings at least two times (2) per financial year on all significant matters within its duties and responsibilities as set out in this charter (March and August)
- The committee shall compile a report to Council on its activities to be included in the municipality annual report.
- Ensure Council is aware of matters that may significantly impact on the financial condition or affairs of the municipality.

13. EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

- The Audit Committee must be evaluated on its performance and achievements against its charter on an annual basis. The evaluation will:
- Be at least annually against its performance in terms of the charter;
- Cover individual members' attendance and contribution, review of performance by key stakeholders;
- Periodically review what it has accomplished and whether it has fulfilled its responsibilities and that can be done against its Charter; and
- Submit the results of the above reviews and evaluations to the Council.

14. REVIEW PERIOD

- Reviewing of the charter shall take place annually to propose any required changes to Council and as per prescriptions of legislation
- Ensure that the Charter is approved reviewed by Council with (if required) or without amendments made to it.