

Area of Assurance	Purpose	Hub Commentary	Risk rating
Governance	Assurance on the on-going training and development of Board members including any changes to Board stucture, rationale for any structure changes, training plans for Board members, procedures around conflicts of interest.	The Hub will follow up on this area in the next cycle.	No rating
	Assurance of on-going review of all governance documentation and policies. The assurance will be provided through a short written summary of planned and completed activities in this area and should include reference to information governance, health and safety governance, public liability and employer's liability insurance and cyber governance.	The Hub noted that Terms of Reference had been provided for BP's Audit and Risk Committee and the HSE Committee and that an update would be provided on remaining governance requests (Health and Safety,ISO, Data Protection, Cyber Security, insurance) for the next review in June 2025. The Hub agreed that in the absence of further information, this did not provide full assurance however it was recognised that the joint venture is in the early stages of setting up governance arrangements.	Low
Risk Management	Assurance that risks are being regularly reviewed in accordance with the organisation's agreed risk management policy, are kept under regular review with control actions monitored to completion, and are linked to the achievement of outcomes for the ALEO and the Council. This assurance will be provided through provision of risk registers and relevant supporting <u>minutes/documentation</u>	BP confirmed that the risk register is currently under review by the project manager ahead of its review by the Board Meeting in November. The Hub will request review of the completed risk register in the next reporting cycle.	Low
	Assurance that arrangements are in place for internal and external auditing.	bpAHEL confirmed that they are in the process of establishing an Audit & Risk Committee and provided a copy of the committee ToR for review. The ToR provided confirms that this committee will be responsible for providing assurance to the Board around risk management, internal control, and financial reporting. The Hub will follow up progress and activities from the committee in the next reporting cycle.	Low
	<p>Assurance that emergency plans/major incident plans and processes and appropriate business continuity arrangements are in place.</p> <p>Assurance that testing and exercising arrangements or schedules are in place which recognise the evolving risk environment for the Place; in particular that provision is made within plans and exercising to ensure resilience around critical service delivery; that each organisation has an awareness of the Council's responsibilities as a Cat 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act and has agreed mechanisms in place to support these; and that each organisation is fully conversant with the implications for their operations of the CONTEST Strategy (UK Govt strategy for counter-terrorism), in particular in respect of the Prevent and Protect duties.</p>	bpAHEL confirmed that current Business Continuity Plan arrangements are based up BP's existing plans however, plans will be reviewed and updated as bpAHEL develops. The Hub will follow up progress in this area in the next reporting cycle.	Low

Finance	Assurance that accounts are being managed within budget, that the level of financial risk to the Council is low and that there is compliance with the Following the Public Pound Code of Practice.	The Hub confirmed that regular monthly budget monitoring accounts are being issued to Board members and that there are no matters of concern arising within these reports. Board papers also indicate extensive discussions on particular aspects continue to be tabled as required.	Low
	Assurance that ALEOs undertake medium-term financial planning or have incorporated medium term planning into a Business Plan to provide assurance that ALEOs are prepared for core funding pressures. Again this ensures compliance with the Following the Public Pound Code of Practice.	The Business Plan was taken to the Board in October 2023. Updates discussed at the June meeting on working capital requirements post FID and early years forecasting will be followed up in subsequent cycles. The Hub is waiting for the latest version of the Business Plan. Going concern confirmations have been received from both shareholders.	Low
	Assurance that accounts are being managed within budget, are in line with statutory requirements and Following the Public Pound Code of Practice, and that the level of financial risk to the Council is low.	The audited 2023-24 annual accounts were submitted to Companies House on 23 July. There were no matters arising and the auditors raised no matters of concern. It has been noted that there is no outstanding audit recommendation for financial year 2023-24.	Very Low