

OPEN

Audit and Governance Committee

30 September 2024

Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24

**Report of: Janet Witkowski, Acting Director of Governance &
Compliance Services**

Report Reference No: AG/22/24-25

Ward(s) Affected: All

For Decision or Scrutiny: Decision

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider the draft Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24 and agree the final version of the report that will go to the next meeting of Council on 16 October 2024.
- 2 The report is produced in line with the requirements of the Council's Constitution and the Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference whereby the Committee will report to Council on a regular basis on the performance and effectiveness of meeting its purpose.

Executive Summary

- 3 Producing an annual report on the work of the Committee ensures compliance with best practice requirements and the Council's Constitution. The report also provides assurances to wider stakeholders on the continuing improvements of the Council's governance arrangements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the draft Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24 and agree the final version which will be presented at the next meeting of Council.

Background

- 4 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022 states the Committee should report annually on how it has complied with the position statement, discharged its responsibilities, and include an assessment of its performance.

Consultation and Engagement

- 5 The Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24 has been drafted in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and considered to by the Corporate Leadership Team.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 6 To report in line with the requirements of the Council's Constitution and the Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference, which require a report to full Council on a regular basis.
- 7 The report should cover the performance of the Committee in relation to its Terms of Reference, and the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose in accordance with the CIPFA Position Statement.

Other Options Considered

- 8 Not applicable.

| Option | Impact | Risk |
|------------|--|---|
| Do nothing | Audit and Governance Committee do not share with work and report on their performance to Council | Failure to meet the Committee terms of reference and non-compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement |

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 9 The Council's Constitution gives responsibility to the Audit and Governance Committee for overseeing the Council's roles and responsibilities in respect of corporate governance and audit and specifically for submitting an annual report to Council. Production of the report ensures compliance with this requirement.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 10 The annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee outlines the assurances received by the Committee on the adequacy of the Council's governance arrangements, including the integrity of financial reporting processes.
- 11 There is no direct impact on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Policy

- 12 The production of the annual report and its presentation to Council ensures compliance with CIPFA best practice guidance.
- 13 Reporting on the effectiveness working of the Audit and Governance Committee supports the "Open" aim in the Corporate Plan; ensuring there is transparency in all aspects of decision making.

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| An open and enabling organisation: |
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| Ensuring there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making |
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 14 There are no direct equality, diversity and inclusion implications.

Human Resources

- 15 There are no direct human resources implications.

Risk Management

- 16 The annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee outlines the assurances received by the Committee on various aspects of the

Council's governance arrangements, including the adequacy of the risk management framework.

Rural Communities

17 There are no direct rural community implications.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

18 There are no direct implications.

Public Health

19 There are no direct public health implications.

| Access to Information | |
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| Appendices: | Appendix 1: Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2023/24 |
| Background Papers: | N/A |