

OPEN

Audit and Governance Committee

Thursday, 28 September 2023

**Annual Report of the Audit and
Governance Committee 2022/23**

**Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
(Monitoring Officer)**

Report Reference No: AG/24/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider the draft version of the Audit and Governance Committee's Annual Report 2022/23 and agree the final version of the report that will go to the next meeting of Council on 18 October 2023.

Executive Summary

- 2 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 2022/23 and agree the final version which will be presented at the next meeting of Council.

Background

- 3 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

- 4 The Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23 has been drafted in conjunction with the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and considered by the Corporate Leadership Team)

Reasons for Recommendations

- 5 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.
- 6 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

- 7 Not applicable.

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

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 8 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

- 9 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.
- 10 There is no direct impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Policy

- 11 The production of the annual report and its presentation to Council ensures compliance with CIPFA best practice guidance.
- 12 Reporting on the effective working of the Audit and Governance Committee supports the Council's "Open" aim in the Corporate Plan 2021-2025; ensuring there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.

An open and enabling organisation.

Ensuring there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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

Human Resources

- 14 There are no direct human resource implications.

Risk Management

- 15 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

- 16 There are no direct rural communities implications.

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

17 There are no direct implications.

Public Health

18 There are no direct public health implications.

Climate Change

19 There are no direct climate change implications.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix 1: Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2022/23
Background Papers:	N/A