

Council

18 October 2023

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

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

Report Reference No: C/08/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1 To present to Council the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23 (Appendix 1), as approved by the Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September 2023.

Executive Summary

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is recommended to:

1. Receive the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23

Background

- 3 The requirement for the Audit and Governance Committee to report annually to full Council on its work is included in the Council's

Constitution. It is also established good practice, as set out in the relevant guidance The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA).

- 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.
- 5 The Audit and Governance Committee received a draft version of the report to review and recommend at its meeting on 28 September 2023; the recommended report is attached at Appendix 1.

Consultation and Engagement

- 6 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

- 7 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.

Other Options Considered

- 8 No other options considered as failure to produce an annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee would mean the Council not being compliant with its Constitution and would not be taking opportunities to be transparent and accountable about the work of the Committee.

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 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.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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

Human Resources

15 There are no direct human resource 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 communities' 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 for children and young people.

Public Health

19 There are no direct public health implications.

Climate Change

20 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