

OPEN

Audit and Governance Committee

29 September 2025

Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2024-25

Report of: Interim Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Report Reference No: AG/24/25-26

Ward(s) Affected: All Wards

For 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 2024/25 and agree the final version of the report that will go to the next meeting of Council in October 2025
- 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 its 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 2024/25 and agree the final version which will be presented at the October 2025 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 2024/25 has been drafted in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, with support from the Head of Audit Risk and Assurance, and the Internal Audit Manager.

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

Other Options Considered

- 7 Not applicable.

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	Audit and Governance Committee do not share the 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/Governance

- 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.

Human Resources

11 There are no direct human resources implications.

Risk Management

12 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.

Impact on other Committees

13 There are no impacts on other committees.

Policy

14 The production of the annual report and its presentation to Council ensures compliance with CIPFA best practice guidance.

15 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.

Commitment 3: An effective and enabling council
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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

Other Implications

17 There are no other implications.

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy) :</i>			
Ashley Hughes	S151 Officer	16/09/25	16/09/25
Kevin O'Keefe	Monitoring Officer	16/09/25	16/09/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Steve Reading	Finance Manager	16/09/25	17/09/25
Julie Gregory	Acting Head of Legal Services	16/09/25	18/09/25

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix 1: Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2024/25
Background Papers:	N/A