

<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
<b>29 JANUARY 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor John Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance		
Contact Officer(s):	Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	Tel.	

**AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	<b>Deadline date: 29 January 2024</b>
<p>1. That the Audit Committee recommends to Full Council the adoption of the amended Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee included at Appendix 1</p>	

<b>1.</b>	<b>ORIGIN OF REPORT</b>		
1.1	This report is submitted to the Audit Committee for the Committee to consider the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee which are in line with the CIPFA guidance		
<b>2.</b>	<b>PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT</b>		
2.1	The purpose of this report is to request that the Audit Committee considers changes to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee included at Appendix 1 and determine whether the amended Terms of Reference can be referred to Full Council for approval.		
2.2	This report is for the Audit Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.2.2.14 To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or a Director, or any Council body.		
<b>3.</b>	<b>TIMESCALES</b>		
	Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting
<b>4.</b>	<b>BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES</b>		
4.1	In late 2022 CIPFA produced guidance for local authorities with regards to best practice in terms of local authority Audit Committees.		
4.2	The committee has made a number of positive strides over the last 18 months to two years including appointing three independent members to the committee. This includes having an independent chair of the Audit Committee.		

4.3	As part of the Council's improvement journey the Independent Improvement and Assurance Panel have welcomed the progress made by the committee, recognising that there is still more to be done.
4.4	Attached as Appendix 1 are the current terms of reference for the committee with the proposed changes in line with CIPFA guidance included in track changes. Appendix 2 includes the CIPFA guidance.
4.5	At its meeting held in November 2023, the Committee asked for the CIPFA Terms of Reference to be incorporated into the Committee's Terms of Reference.
<b>5.</b>	<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES</b>
5.1	<p>This report relates to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sustainable Future City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How we Work</li> <li>• How we Serve</li> <li>• How we Enable</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Any changes will play a key role in how the Council serves its residents.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>
6.1	As part of the wider review the Audit Committee and its members form part of the consultation.
<b>7.</b>	<b>ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT</b>
7.1	It is anticipated that this will enable the committee to have an up to date fit for purpose terms of reference.
<b>8.</b>	<b>REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION</b>
8.1	As the decision to amend the Terms of Reference is that of Full Council, a recommendation is needed from the Audit Committee to effect referral to Full Council.
<b>9.</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
9.1	The committee could agree to keep the terms of reference as they are, however, these have not been updated or reviewed in detail for a number of years and do not take into account the CIPFA Guidance.
<b>10.</b>	<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
	<b>Financial Implications</b>
10.1	There are none at this time.
	<b>Legal Implications</b>
10.2	Full Council is the decision maker for the changes to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee. This report is seeking approval for the Audit Committee to recommend to Full Council the proposed change to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee so that they are in line with CIPFA Guidance.

	<b>Equalities Implications</b>
10.3	There are none.
<b>11.</b>	<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b> Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
11.1	N/A
<b>12.</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
12.1	Appendix 1 – Proposed amendments to Audit Committee Terms of Reference Appendix 2- CIPFA guide for Audit Committees

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