

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
22 MARCH 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Dan Kalley, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 296334

ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Fiona McMillan, Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Audit Committee approve the draft Annual Audit Committee Report for submission to Council as shown in Appendix 1 .	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Audit Committee in line with the agreed Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2020 / 2021.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The Audit Committee has been in operation since Annual Council in May 2006 (first meeting June 2006). The Committee has a wide ranging remit that underpins the Council's governance processes by providing independent challenge and assurance of the adequacy of risk management, internal control including internal audit, anti-fraud and the financial reporting framework. These are shown in its terms of reference.

2.2 This report is for the Audit Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.2.1.15

To consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The attached Draft Annual Report has been produced (**Appendix 1**). The report shows:

- Background to the Committee, its roles, responsibilities and membership;
- An overview and coverage of its remit including Internal Audit, Accounts and Financial Management, External Audit, Risk Management, Control Assurance, Corporate Governance, and Fraud and Irregularities; and
- Training provided to ensure that suitable challenge and scrutiny is adopted.

4.2 During the year the Audit Committee have continued to have pre-meetings a week prior to the main meeting. This has given members the opportunity to understand better the audit process of the Council and is a feature that will continue.

4.3 Due to the ongoing pandemic the Audit Committee has continued to carry out its functions via zoom.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 None required

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 Publication of the report will enable the public to gain an insight into the role of the Committee and will ensure that the Committee can continue to progress and develop in the future. The City Council continues to evolve its Audit Committee in line with best practice to provide effective challenge to the governance arrangements adopted.

6.2 Subject to approval by Audit Committee, it is intended to present the report to Council for noting as part of the Committee's annual update in order to demonstrate the work carried out to improve the governance arrangements across the Council.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To seek endorsement from Members that the Committee is delivering against its terms of reference and provided effective challenge to the organisation

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 None.

Legal Implications

9.2 None

Equalities Implications

9.3 None

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 The Councils Constitution

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A - Draft Audit Committee Annual Report

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