

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
20 MARCH 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Chris Brooks, Audit Committee Chair	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Dan Kalley, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 296334

ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Chris Brooks, Audit Committee Chair	Deadline date: Audit Committee 20 March, Full Council July 2023
<p>It is recommended that Audit Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and approve the draft Annual Audit Committee Report shown in Appendix 1 for submission to Council in July 2023. 2. Delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with the Audit Committee Group representatives, to agree any minor changes to the report before submission to Council 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Audit Committee in line with the agreed Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022 / 2023.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The Audit Committee has been in operation since Annual Council in May 2006 (first meeting in 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 controls 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. 2.2.1.13

To produce an annual report for consideration by Full Council.

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 A**). The report shows:

- Background to the Committee, its roles, responsibilities, terms of reference (**Annex B**)

and membership (**Annex A**).

- 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 has expanded its coverage by including a standing item on the actions and matter arising from previous meetings. In addition, a matrix of items reviewed against the committee's terms of reference have also been created. This is included as part of the committee's work programme and will form part of the annual report as Annex C.

4.3 Items from this meeting will be included fully before the report is presented to Council in July 2023.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report links to the Corporate Priorities as outlined below:

1. *Sustainable Future City Council*
 - *How we Work*
 - *How we Serve*
 - *How we Enable*

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The Audit Committee has the opportunity to comment on the report before it is presented to Full Council in July 2023.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

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

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 There is a requirement for a report to go to Full Council and for the Audit Committee to review this before it goes.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 None.

Legal Implications

10.2 There are no legal implications in respect of what is proposed.

Equalities Implications

10.3 None

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 The Councils Constitution

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix A - Draft Audit Committee Annual Report

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