

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
27 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Interim Director of Legal and Governance</i>	Deadline date: 27 November 2023
<p>That Audit Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviews the terms of reference of the model CIPFA terms of reference included at Appendix 2. 2. Proposes any changes to the Audit Committee's current terms of reference included at Appendix 1 in line with the CIPA terms of reference. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Audit Committee for the Committee to consider any changes to the terms of reference in line with the recent CIPFA guidance.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 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. The review was requested by Audit Committee at its meeting on 25 July 2022.
- 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.

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 In late 2022 CIPFA produced guidance for local authorities with regards to best practice in terms of local authority Audit Committees.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 This now feels like the appropriate time for the committee to review its terms of reference and make suggestions on changes that will help enhance the work of the committee.
- 4.6 Attached as Appendix 1 is the current terms of reference for the committee and at Appendix 2 is the CIPFA guidance in full. The model terms of reference can be found in the document at pages 35 to 38.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 This report relates to:

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

Any changes will play a key role in how the Council serves its residents.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 As part of the wider review the Audit Committee and its members form part of the consultation.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 It is anticipated that this will enable the committee to have an up to date fit for purpose terms of reference.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The committee are a vital part in agreeing to the terms of reference that will enable them to be more effective. The recommendations allow the committee the opportunity to comment and suggest changes before being endorsed to the Constitution and Ethics Committee and ultimately Full Council.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 There are none at this time.

Legal Implications

10.2 *This report is seeking views from the Audit Committee on changes to the Terms of Reference. Legal implications will be considered as part of any proposed changes.*

Equalities Implications

10.3 There are none.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 [CfGS report into governance arrangements.](#)

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 – Audit Committee current terms of reference
Appendix 2- CIPFA guide for Audit Committees

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