

<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 16</b>
<b>22 JULY 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Daniel Schumann, Independent Audit Chair	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Amjad Iqbal, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	Matt Makin, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Tel. 01733 384641

**ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2023/2024**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Daniel Schumann, Independent Audit Chair	<b>Deadline date:</b> Audit Committee 22 July 2024, Full Council 16 October 2024
<p>It is recommended that the Audit Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviews and approves the draft Annual Audit Committee Report shown in <b>Appendix A</b> for submission to Full Council in October 2024.</li> <li>2. Delegates authority to the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Audit Committee Group representatives, to agree any minor changes to the report before its submission to Full Council.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Audit Committee in line with the agreed Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2023 / 2024.

**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 detailed in the Committee's terms of reference.

2.2 This report is for the Audit Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference:

- 3.35: To publish an annual report on the work of the committee, including a conclusion on the compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement.

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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## **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The attached draft Annual Report has been produced and is at **Appendix A** to this report. The report shows:

- Background to the Committee, its roles, responsibilities, terms of reference (at **Annex B**), and membership (at **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 The Committee introduced a standing item during the Municipal Year 2022 / 2023 on the actions and matters arising from previous meetings, to expand its coverage. In addition, a matrix of items reviewed against the Committee's updated terms of reference, adopted by Full Council at its annual meeting on 20 May 2024, has also been created. This is included as part of the Committee's work programme and will form part of the annual report at **Annex C**.

## **5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 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 October 2024.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

7.1 The publication of the report will enable the public to gain an insight into the role of the Audit 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 government arrangements adopted.

7.2 Subject to its approval by the Audit Committee, it is intended to present the report to Full 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 Audit Committee is delivering against its terms of reference and is providing effective challenge to the organisation.

8.2 To seek endorsement from Members to present a final version of the annual report to Full Council for noting.

8.3 To authorise the Chair of the Audit Committee, in consultation with the Committee's Group representatives, to make any minor amendments to the annual report prior to its submission to Full Council.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There is a requirement for a report to be presented to Full Council and for the Audit Committee to review this prior to its submission, therefore no other options were considered.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 None.

### **Legal Implications**

- 10.2 None.

### **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 Peterborough City Council Constitution

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 Appendix A – Draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2023 / 2024

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