

Audit and Governance Committee

19 March 2013

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee

Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

Summary

- 1 This report seeks Members' views on the draft annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee for the period ended 28th February 2013, prior to its submission to Full Council.
- 2 This report covers an extended period from October 2011 to February 2013 so includes an additional 2 meetings of the Committee. The preparation of this report was delayed from September due to the appointment of a new Chair of the Committee in June 2012 to allow sufficient time for the Chair to be able to provide adequate assurance on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Background

- 3 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that audit committees operate effectively. The guidance recommends that audit committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.

Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

- 4 A copy of the draft annual report of the Committee is attached at Appendix 1. A copy of the Committee's terms of reference, as set out in Section 8, Part 3C of the Constitution is also attached to the report at Appendix 2, for information.

Options

- 5 This report sets out the proposed wording of the Committee's Annual Report. Members are asked to suggest alternative wording if necessary.

Analysis

- 6 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Corporate Priorities

- 7 This report contributes to the council's overall aims and priorities by helping to ensure probity, integrity and honesty in everything we do.

Implications

- 8 The implications are:
 - **Financial** – none
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – there are no HR implications to this report.
 - **Equalities** – there are no equalities implications to this report.
 - **Legal** – there are no legal implications to this report.
 - **Crime and Disorder** – there are no crime and disorder implications to this report.
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – there are no IT implications to this report.
 - **Property** – there are no property implications to this report.

Risk Management

- 9 Assurance in respect of the council's arrangements for managing risk, the maintenance of effective controls including those designed to prevent and detect fraud, and compliance with relevant legislation, may not be provided if the Audit and Governance Committee does not produce an annual report.

Recommendations

10 Members are asked to:

- Consider and comment on the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee prior to its submission to Full Council.

Reason

To enable the Committee to fulfil its role in providing assurance about the adequacy of the council's internal control environment and arrangements for managing risk and for reporting on financial and other performance.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date 19/03/13

Specialist Implications Officers

Not applicable

Wards Affected: Not applicable

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

- CIPFA 'A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees'
- International Standard for Auditing 240 Fraud
- International Standard for Auditing 250 Laws and Regulations

Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report

Appendix 2 – Audit & Governance Committee's Terms of Reference