

Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report 2019/20

For Audit & Governance Committee on 24 November 2020

Summary

Lead Member: Councillor Tom Dawlings – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

Lead Director: Lee Colyer – Director of Finance, Policy & Development (Section 151 Officer)

Head of Service: Rich Clarke – Head of Audit Partnership

Report Author: Russell Heppleston – Deputy Head of Audit Partnership

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Audit & Governance Committee	24 November 2020
Full Council	TBC

Recommendations

Officer / Committee recommendations as supported by the Portfolio Holder:

1. That the Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report for 2019/20 (appendix A) is **agreed**.
2. That the Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee **presents** the report to a future meeting of the Full Council to demonstrate how the Committee has discharged its duties.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is required to monitor audit activity (internal and external), review and comment on the effectiveness of the Council's regulatory framework and review and approve the Council's annual statements of accounts and scrutinise associated strategy and policy.
- 1.2 This report sets out how this has been achieved during 2019/20.

Purpose

- 1.3 The report outlines how the Audit and Governance Committee has effectively discharged its duties during 2019/20. The report provides assurance to the Council that important internal control, governance and risk management issues are being monitored and addressed by the Committee. The report seeks to provide additional assurance to support the Annual Governance Statement.

2. Options Considered

- 2.1 The production and presentation of an annual report is something that the Committee has done for the several years and is recognised as good practice.
- 2.2 The Committee could decide that they no longer wish to publish an annual report, however, this would not be advised. Oversight and monitoring of the Council's activities is a vital part of effective governance. Without an update from the Audit Committee, Council would lack assurance on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to ensure good governance, risk management and internal control.

3. Preferred Option and Reason

- 3.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee agree the Annual Report as attached in **Appendix A**, and that the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presents the report to a meeting of Full Council setting out how the Committee has discharged its duties.
- 3.2 The reason being that the production and presentation of an annual report is something that the Committee has done for the several years and is recognised as good practice.

4. Consultation on Options

- 4.1 The draft report was circulated and reviewed by the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee prior to submission for this meeting.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 Following comments and approval from this Committee, the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee will present the report to a future meeting of Full Council.

6. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report 2019-20

Background Papers:

- None

7. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

There are no Legal implications associated with this decision.

B. Finance and Other Resources

There are no direct financial or other resource implications associated with this decision. The role of the Audit & Governance Committee includes the review of the financial reports for the Council, including the approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

C. Staffing

There are no staffing implications associated with this decision.

D. Risk Management

Although there are no direct risk management implications associated with this decision, the role of the Audit & Governance Committee requires it to consider the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements.

E. Environment and Sustainability

There are no environment or sustainability implications associated with this decision.

F. Community Safety

There are no community safety implications associated with this decision.

G. Equalities

There are no equality implications associated with this decision.

H. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications associated with this decision.

I. Health and Safety

There are no health and safety implications associated with this decision.

J. Health and Wellbeing

There are no health and wellbeing implications associated with this decision.