

Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report

For Audit & Governance Committee on 19 September 2023.

Summary

Lead Member: Ben Chapelard, Leader of the Council

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

Head of Service: Katherine Woodward, Head of Mid Kent Audit Partnership

Report Author: Katherine Woodward, Head of Mid Kent Audit Partnership

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Audit & Governance Committee	19 September 2023
Full Council	13 December 2023

Recommendations

Officer / Committee recommendations as supported by the Portfolio Holder:

1. That the Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report for 2022/23 (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 2022/23.

Purpose

- 1.3 The report outlines how the Audit and Governance Committee has effectively discharged its duties during 2022/23. The report provides assurance to the Council that important internal control, governance and risk management issues are being monitored and addressed by the Committee.

2. Options Considered

- 2.1 The production and presentation of an annual report is something that the Committee has done for 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

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The reason being that the production and presentation of an annual report is something that the Committee has done for several years and is recognised as good practice.

4. Consultation on Options

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

5. Implementation

- 2.1 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 2022-23

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 (inc. Biodiversity) 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.