

Meeting/Date:	Council - 19 October 2023
Report Title:	Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2022-23
Directorate:	Governance and Law
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Wards affected:	None specifically
Public Access	Open
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Committee Annual Report

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. To provide an overview of the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during the 2022-23 municipal year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1. Council is recommended to **note** the annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 1.2. The Audit and Governance Committee was established to provide independent assurance of the robustness of the Council's corporate governance procedures and compliance with them, its financial management and controls, and risk management.
- 1.3. The Audit and Governance Committee's composition and role are set out in its terms of reference, in Part 7 of the Council's Constitution. These were updated following a review by the Constitution Working Group and the Audit and Governance Committee, and subsequently agreed by Council in April 2023.

4. OVERVIEW

- 1.4. The report demonstrates how the Audit and Governance Committee has fulfilled its terms of reference during the 2022-23 municipal year and its commitment to improving the Council's governance and control environment.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This is an information report.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk

- 6.1.1 The work undertaken by the committee provides assurance that there are arrangements in place for the management of risks which are

appropriate, proportionate, monitored, and effective.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 S151 Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to “make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs”. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 provide that the local authority is responsible for ensuring “a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; ensures that the financial and operations management of the authority is effective and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk”.

6.2.2 The work undertaken by the Committee provides confirmation for Full Council, as the body charged with governance, that arrangements in place are up to date, fit for purpose, communicated and embedded, monitored and routinely complied with.

6.3 Equalities and Diversity

6.3.1 None specifically.

6.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)

6.4.1 The work of the Committee is key to preventing fraud and ensuring that all legal, financial and constitutional requirements underpinning the Council’s activities are fulfilled.

6.5 Council Infrastructure (e.g. human resources, accommodation or IT issues)

6.5.1 As above.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

There are no background papers for this report which require listing.