

Report of Chief Officer Financial Services

Report to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 15th March 2021

Subject: Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- This report sets out the draft annual report of The Corporate Governance and Audit Committees for the 2020/21 municipal year.
- In accordance with best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the report demonstrates how the committee has discharged its responsibilities.

Recommendations

- Members are requested to approve the draft annual report attached at Appendix A to this report and to authorise the Chair of Committee to sign on their behalf.

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 This report seeks approval of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee's Annual Report to Council for the 2020/21 municipal year

2. Background information

2.1 This is the third annual report to be approved by this Committee.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Annual Report of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, attached to this report, reflects the work undertaken by the committee in the 2020/21 municipal year.
- 3.2 The report notes the assurances received to support the Committee in carrying out the functions delegated to it in respect of approval of the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts.
- 3.3 The report further notes those areas in which the work of the Committee has, through robust challenge and critical consideration, added value to the Council's arrangements for governance, audit and risk.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer have been sighted on this draft report, which has been compiled in consultation with members of the Committee.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The Committee's work provides assurance that the Council is meeting its best Council ambitions in providing the efficient and effective delivery of the strategic ambitions set out in the Best Council Plan.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The report recognises the Committee's planned work in relation to governance in respect of the climate emergency.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The Committee's work contributes directly by providing assurance that arrangements in respect of resources, procurement and value for money are fit for purpose, embedded and routinely applied.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 This report relates to a Council function and is not therefore eligible for call in.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The Committee's work programme is developed on a risk based approach to the significant governance arrangements of the Council.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The annual report demonstrates a balanced consideration of reports and assurances during the year that has enabled the committee to reach evidence based opinions on the council's governance arrangements.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are requested to approve the draft annual report attached at Appendix A to this report and to authorise the Chair of Committee to sign on their behalf.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.