

# Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Work Programme 2021-22

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Report of: Chief Officer Financial Services

Report to: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## What is this report about?

### Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report proposes both a work programme and a development plan for the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.
  - The work programme sets out future business for the Committee's agenda, together with details of when items will be presented.
  - The development plan details arrangements to develop and extend the committee's skills and knowledge in relation to core areas identified by CIPFA.

## Recommendations

- a) Members are requested to
  - i.) consider and approve the work programme and meeting dates at Appendix 1;
  - ii.) consider and approve the development plan attached at Appendix 2.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Regular review of the work programme will enable the Committee to manage the business appropriately in line with the risks currently facing the Council.
- 2 The development plan is designed to support the work of the Committee by building on existing skills, knowledge and experience of the committee.

## What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards affected: None**

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 3 The work undertaken by the committee throughout the year will support the understanding of the internal control and risk environment, and support the committee's approval of the statutory Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement.
- 4 The development programme set out is designed to support the Committee's robust examination of the assurance provided to ensure an accurate reflection of the internal control and risk environment in the AGS.

#### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

- 5 The Work programme was approved by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee at its meeting in March 2021. Amendment are proposed following consultation with Grant Thornton in relation to the timetable for external audit of the accounts following amendments to the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 6 Members are invited to comment on the proposed development plan.

#### **What are the resource implications?**

- 7 The work undertaken by the committee will provide assurance as to the appropriate use of resources to deliver the council's strategic objectives.

#### **What are the legal implications?**

- 8 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 operational management of the authority is effective and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk".
- 9 The work undertaken by the committee enables it to advise Council (the body charged with governance) that arrangements in place are up to date, fit for purpose, communicated and embedded, monitored and routinely complied with.
- 10 CIPFA's Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2018) is proper practice for audit committees in the sector. The guidance sets out core knowledge required for an effective audit committee.

#### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 11 The work undertaken by the committee will provide assurance that there are arrangements in place for the management of risk which are appropriate, proportionate, monitored and effective.

#### **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

- 12 The work undertaken by the committee will provide assurance that arrangements for internal control support the delivery of the council's strategic objectives.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

13 Members are invited to recommend the inclusion of further business in the work programme, or amendments to the development plan as necessary.

### **How will success be measured?**

14 The Committee will provide an annual report to Council detailing how the committee has discharged its responsibilities.

### **What is the timetable for implementation?**

15 As set out at Appendix 1 and 2

## **Appendices**

16 Appendix 1 – Proposed Work Programme of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 2021/22

17 Appendix 2 – Proposed Development Plan for Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 2021/22

## **Background papers**

18 None