

Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 11th September 2024

Report of: Chief Officer Financial Services

Report to: Full Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Full Council is charged with governance of the local authority and has appointed Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to carry out functions in this regard.

The attached Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee demonstrates how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities in accordance with best practice.

Recommendations

- a) Members are requested to receive and consider the annual report reflecting the work of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in the 2023-24 municipal year.

What is this report about?

- 1 The Annual Report of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, attached to this report, reflects the work undertaken by the Committee in the 2023-24 municipal year.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The report provides council, as the body charged with governance, confidence that:
 - a) The committee is operating in accordance with relevant guidance.
 - b) The committee has received assurance that the council has a robust and up to date internal control environment, which is effectively embedded and routinely complied with.
 - c) The committee can discharge the statutory functions delegated through its terms of reference and to approve the Annual Governance Statement and audited accounts as required.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

- Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

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

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 4 The report was approved by the committee at its meeting on 24th June 2024.

What are the resource implications?

- 5 The work undertaken by the committee provides assurance that the council's resources are used efficiently to deliver the council's strategic objectives.

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

- 6 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.

What are the legal implications?

- 7 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".

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 8 None

How will success be measured?

- 9 The work undertaken by the committee will assist their consideration and approval of the Annual Governance Statement and the council's accounts.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 10 This annual report of the committee reflects work undertaken in the 2023-24 municipal year.

Appendices

- Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 2023-2024

Background papers

- None