

# Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 10<sup>TH</sup> November 2021

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

## What is this report about?

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

- 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 2020-21 municipal year

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 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.

## What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards affected: None**

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 2 The work undertaken by Corporate Governance and Audit Committee throughout the municipal year supports its assessment of the internal control and risk environment. This in turn will inform the committee's consideration and approval of the statutory Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 The Annual Report was compiled in consultation with and approved by Members of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in the 2020/21 municipal year.

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

- 4 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 legal implications?**

- 5 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".
- 6 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.

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

- 7 The work undertaken by the committee provides 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

- 8 The work undertaken by the committee provides 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?**

- 9 None.

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

- 10 The External Auditor is required to provide an opinion on the information published together with the audited financial statements (including the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report). The report of audit findings for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 records that no compliance issues were identified. The review identified two development opportunities which have been incorporated into the Annual Governance Statement prepared to accompany the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

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

- 11 The Annual Report reflects work undertaken in the 2020-21 municipal year.

### **Appendices**

- 12 Appendix 1 – Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 2020-21

### **Background papers**

- 13 None