

## Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Work Programme 2021-22

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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 presents the work programme for the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, setting out future business for the Committee's agenda, together with details of when items will be presented.
- The report also invites Members to suggest any matters which they would wish to see included in the work programme for 2022/23 which will be received by the Committee at its March meeting.

### Recommendations

- a) Members are requested to consider and approve the work programme and meeting dates at Appendix 1.
- b) Members are invited to recommend any matters for inclusion in the 2022/23 work programme.

### Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Development and regular review of the work programme enables the Committee to manage the business appropriately in line with the risks currently facing the Council.

### What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards affected: None**

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 2 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.

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

- 3 The Work programme was approved by the Committee at its meeting in March 2021 and is presented at each meeting for the committee to consider and amend as appropriate. Similarly the work programme for 2022/23 will be presented in March 2022 and at subsequent meetings.

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

- 4 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?**

- 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 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.

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

- 7 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

- 8 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?**

- 9 It is proposed that the draft annual report of the committee is brought to the first meeting of the new municipal year for approval prior to submission to Council, enabling the draft to fully reflect the work and impact of the committee over the municipal year including any work undertaken by the Chair on the committee's behalf in the closing weeks of the year. Whilst it is possible that membership of the committee will change prior to this meeting there is likely to be a substantial continuity in membership such that an informed judgement can be made in respect of the draft report.
- 10 Members are invited to recommend the inclusion of further business in the work programme as necessary.

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

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

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

- 12 As set out at Appendix 1

### **Appendices**

- 13 Appendix 1 – Work Programme of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee 2021/22

### **Background papers**

- 14 None