

# Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 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 sets out the draft annual report of The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year.
- In accordance with best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), the report demonstrates how the committee has discharged its responsibilities.
- The report demonstrates how the committee supports the council's governance arrangements, and in doing so supports the council in achieving its Best City Ambition and the three pillars of Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing, and Zero Carbon.

## Recommendations

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee are requested to:

- a) Note the assurance set out in this report that the Committee complies with CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police; and
- b) Approve the draft annual report attached at Appendix A to this report and to authorise the Chair of Committee to sign on their behalf.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

1 This is the Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

## What impact will this proposal have?

### Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 2 The Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee reflects the work undertaken by the committee in the 2021/22 municipal year.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 Following consideration of the Committee's work programme in March 2022, Members asked for further information in relation to CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police. Appendix B to this report sets out the way in which the Committee meets the requirements of the position statement.

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

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

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

- 7 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.
- 8 The report provides information to Council on the work undertaken to ensure the sustainable use of the council's resources to deliver the strategic ambitions of the council.

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

- 9 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".
- 10 The report will provide assurance to 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?**

- 11 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.

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

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Zero Carbon

- 12 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?**

13 None.

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

14 The Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee will be received by Full Council

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

15 The Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee reflects work undertaken in the 2021-22 municipal year.

## **Appendices**

16 Appendices are attached as follows:

- A. Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
- B. Compliance with CIPFA Audit Committees Position Statement

## **Background papers**

17 None