

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 28 January 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Audit Committee - Annual Report for 2023/24

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To present the 2023/24 Audit Committee Annual Report for consideration by Council.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That members approve the report.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The production of an annual report by the Audit Committee is considered to be good practice by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This practice was adopted for 2023/24 as part of the Audit Committee's self-assessment and action plan for improvement developed over the last year. It is important that the wider membership of the Council is kept informed of the work to ensure sound control and governance. The report to Council is an essential part of this process.
- 3.2 The annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee is shown in Appendix 1. It summarises the activities of the Committee and demonstrates how it has discharged its duties. It highlights the achievements of the Committee and is a useful reminder to the organisation of the role of the Committee in providing assurance about its governance, risk management and financial controls.
- 3.3 The annual report was endorsed by the Audit Committee on 15 January 2025.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 Report is to be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [IB]

5.1 None directly from this report.

6. Legal implications

6.1 None arising directly from the report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 Contributes to all the aims of the Corporate Plan.

8. Consultation

8.1 The chair of the Audit Committee was involved in drafting the report and the Audit Committee have endorsed it.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 This report does not specifically impact on any community or group.

11. Climate implications

11.1 None directly from this report.

13. Corporate implications

- 13.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
 - Community safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications

- Asset management implications Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None.

Contact officer: Ashley Wilson