

Agenda Item No:

Report To: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 4 October 2022

Report Title: Audit Committee Annual Report for 2021-22

Report Author & Job Title: Alison Blake – Interim Deputy Head of Audit



Summary:

The report outlines how the Audit Committee has effectively discharged its duties during 2020/21. The report provides assurance to the Council that important internal control, governance and risk management issues are being monitored and addressed by the Committee.

Key Decision: No

Significantly Affected Wards: All

Recommendations:

1. That the annual report of the Audit Committee Activity for 2021- 22 is **agreed**
2. That the Chair of the Audit Committee **presents** the report to future meeting of the Full Council to demonstrate how the Committee has discharged its duties.

Policy Overview: N/A.

Financial Implications: N/A

Legal Implications: N/A

Risk Assessment: N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment: N/A

Other Material Implications: N/A

Exempt from Publication: N/A

Background Papers: The Audit Committee is required to monitor audit activity (internal and external), review and comment on the effectiveness of the Council's regulatory framework and review and approve the Council's annual statements of accounts and associated strategies and policies. This report sets out how this has been achieved during 2021/22.

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Purpose of the Report

1. The report outlines how the Audit Committee has effectively discharged its duties during 2021/22. The report provides assurance to the Council that important internal control, governance and risk management issues are being monitored and addressed by the Committee.
2. The report will be presented to the Full Council at a future date to demonstrate how the Committee has discharged its duties during 2021/22.

Background

3. The production and presentation of an annual report is something that the Committee has done for the several years and is recognised as good practice.

Conclusion

4. The Interim Head of Audit Partnership oversaw a workshop in September, where Committee Members discussed their views on the work of the Committee during 2021/22. These views are included in the report.
5. The draft report was circulated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee prior to submission for this meeting.

Implications Assessment

6. The Committee could decide that they no longer wish to publish an annual report, however, this would not be advised. Oversight and monitoring of the Council's activities is a vital part of effective governance. Without an update from the Audit Committee, Council would lose a key source of assurance regarding the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to ensure good governance, risk management and internal control.