

Audit Committee

23rd June 2017



Report of: The Chair of the Audit Committee

Title: Audit Committee Annual Report 2016/17

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Head of Internal Audit

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Recommendation

The Committee to consider and approve the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2016/17

Summary

To review the effectiveness of the Committee's activities during the year and its oversight of the Assurance and Risk Management Frameworks within which the Council operates.

The significant issues in the report are:

The work of the Committee as detailed in section four of Appendix A;
The evaluation of the Committee's performance at Section 4 in Appendix A.



Policy

The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference are determined by Full Council and are reflected in the Risk Management Strategy and Policy Statement. The City Council has a duty to ensure adequate and effective risk management, internal control and governance arrangements and the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its activities. The Audit Committee has a key role in assessing the extent to which this responsibility is being met and advising the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Consultation

- 1. Internal**
S151 Officer, Head of Internal Audit
- 2. External**
Not applicable

Context

3. The Committee's Terms of Reference include a requirement to provide full Council with an Annual Report summarising its conclusions from the work it has undertaken during the year. The report is provided at Appendix A.

Proposal

4. The Committee to consider and approve the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2016/17.

Other Options Considered

None

Risk Assessment

The assurances provided to the Council by the Audit Committee are an important element of the Council's governance arrangements.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
 - i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct

prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.

- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

5b) N/A

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

None necessary

Financial

None necessary

Land

None necessary

Personnel

None necessary

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2016/17

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

CIPFA Guidance on Audit Committee Effectiveness 2013