

Audit Committee

21st September 2017



Report of: Interim Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Audit Committee Annual Report 2016/17 – Addendum

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Interim Chief Internal Auditor

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 92 22063

Recommendation

Members to consider whether the priorities to enhance the effectiveness of the Audit Committee for 2017/18 require amendment.

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 self-assessment of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee in Appendix B.



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. This report was submitted to the Committee in June 2017 and is provided at Appendix A.
4. At the Audit Committee on 20th July 2017, it was identified that the Annual Report of the Audit Committee submitted to Full Council on 18th July 2017 did not include complete details of the self-assessment evaluation of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee.
5. This paper, therefore, rectifies this position with Appendix B providing completeness.
6. The Annual Report of the Committee (Appendix A) summarised the Committee's priorities for 2017/18 to enhance its own effectiveness (paragraph 5.1). Although this summary is not insubstantial, members may wish to consider if these priorities require amendment.

Proposal

7. Members to consider if the priorities to enhance the effectiveness of the Audit Committee for 2017/18 require amendment.

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

- 8a) 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.
- 8b) N/A

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

None necessary

Financial

None necessary

Land

None necessary

Personnel

None necessary

Appendices:

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

Appendix B – Self Assessment - Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Audit Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

CIPFA Guidance on Audit Committee Effectiveness 2013