

Full Council

12th January 2021



Report of:	Chair of Audit Committee
Title:	Audit Committee Half Year Report to Full Council
Ward:	N/A
Member Presenting Report:	Councillor Mark Brain – Chair of Audit Committee

Recommendation

The Council accepts the report of the Audit Committee and notes the key areas the Committee is monitoring to support improvements required in internal control, risk management and governance. Full Council also note the areas for development identified by the Committee to enhance its effectiveness.

Summary

The report provides early insight to the work of the Audit Committee during 2020/21 to date and highlights key areas identified from their work.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The work of the Committee to date is included in Appendix 1 of the report at Appendix A
- Key issues being monitored by Audit Committee are included at section 2 of the report at Appendix A.
- Areas for improvement to enhance the Committee's effectiveness are included in section 3 of the report at Appendix A including the Committee's concern to ensure it has appropriate access to information at paragraph 3.2.



Policy

1. The Audit Committee's terms of reference are determined by Full Council. 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

2. **Internal**
Audit Committee Members including independent members
Internal Audit
3. **External**
None

Context

4. The Committee is the primary means by which Full Council obtains assurance that governance, risk management and control systems are in place and effective. The Committee has previously provided an Annual Report to Full Council however in reviewing their effectiveness the Committee have determined that more timely half yearly updates are also provided.

Proposal

5. The Council accepts the report of the Audit Committee and notes the key areas identified in section two of the attached report. The Committee will continue to monitor to support improvement in these areas. Full Council also note the areas for development identified by the Committee to enhance its effectiveness.

Other Options Considered

6. N/A

Risk Assessment

7. The work of the Audit Committee mitigates against any failure by the Council to obtain independent assurance in relation to the governance processes underpinning :
 - an effective risk management framework and internal control environment
 - the effectiveness of financial and non-financial performance (to the extent it affects exposure to risk and poor internal control)
 - the Annual Governance Statement, and
 - the review and approval of the annual statement of accounts.

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

No equalities impact are relevant to this report

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – N/A

Financial – N/A

Land – N/A

Personnel – N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A - Audit Committee Half Year Report to Full Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Audit Committee Papers 2020/21