

S1 - Suzanne Audrey

My statement is to stress the following important extracts from the 'Review of Governance Arrangements for Bristol City Council's Subsidiaries'.

During 2019/20 the Council's Audit Committee had not always been sufficiently sighted on developments and information relating to the governance arrangements and risks in relation to BE. The Audit Committee is responsible for providing independent assurance on the governance and risk management framework and in order to discharge their responsibilities effectively, Audit Committee members should have had a closer involvement with the issues relating to the Council's investment in BE during the year.

The situation has been compounded by the fact that some information and decisions, such as decisions made by the Shareholder Representative (Deputy Mayor), are not routinely published. In our opinion and based on practice elsewhere, we consider that these decisions could be published by the Council. This approach, which restricts access to information, some of which does not need to be confidential, is creating concerns that the Council is not as open and transparent as it could be and should now be addressed within its governance arrangements.