

Full Council

7th September 2021



Report of: Audit Committee

Title: Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21

Ward: City Wide

Recommendation

The Council notes the annual report of the Audit Committee.

Summary

The Committee's Terms of Reference include a requirement to provide Full Council with an Annual Report summarising the work it has undertaken during the year and the conclusions it has drawn. The report is provided in Appendix A.

The significant issues in the report are:

- the requirement of the Audit Committee's Terms of reference to provide Full Council with an Annual Report.
- the Committee's role to ensure that governance, risk management and internal control systems are robust and the conclusion from the Committee's work during the year that whilst these are not consistently as robust as required, there is evidence that this is improving. The Committee will continue to monitor progress to support sustained improvement going forward.



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**
Not applicable

Context

4. The Audit Committee was established by the Council at its meeting on 16th May 2006 and is a core component of effective governance.

Proposal

5. Full Council notes the report of the Audit Committee and the conclusions from its work during 2020/21.

Other Options Considered

6. Not Applicable

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 equality impact is anticipated from this report. The report provides details of the Audit Committee's work and their conclusions in respect of control and governance processes.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – N/A

Financial – N/A

Land - N/A

Personnel – N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A – Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Audit Committee papers throughout 2020/21