

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Council 1 March 2017

Classification

Public

Enclosures

Appendix 1

AGENDA ITEM No

Ward(s) affected

All

1. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to detail the role of the Audit Committee (the Committee) and summarise the key activities and achievements in 2016/17 that demonstrate how the Committee has fulfilled this role effectively and to measure consistency with the guidance issued by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and other statutory requirements.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is recommended to: -

2.1 Note the Annual Report of the Audit Committee set out in Appendix 1.

3. SUMMARY

3.1 The Annual Report of the Audit Committee outlines key developments in: -

- Internal Control
- Internal Audit
- Risk Management
- External Audit
- Anti Fraud & Corruption
- Financial Reporting

3.3 In reviewing the performance of the Audit Committee against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and in the areas mentioned above, the judgement is that the Committee has fulfilled its role effectively.

3.4 The report is a self assessment of the activities of the Audit Committee during 2016/17.

4. OVERALL CONCLUSION

- 4.1 As detailed and evidenced in the Annual Report, the Audit Committee discharged its duties effectively and has played a significant role in developing and improving internal control and governance arrangements within the Council.
- 4.2 Opportunities for further strengthening the performance and effectiveness of the Audit Committee have been identified and these will be addressed through a programme of development sessions delivered to members on issues including:
- 1) Treasury Management
 - 2) Anti Fraud
 - 3) Risk Management

5. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 5.1 This report looks back over the last year and as such there are no financial effects arising from the recommendation. It is recognised however that an effective Audit Committee can help to both reduce risk and strengthen the control environment in which the services are provided. Through its consideration and approval of the accounts, the risk and treasury management strategies, it can also help to ensure that the financial risks to the Council arising in the future are appropriately managed.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL SERVICES

- 6.1 The Council has a best value duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to ensure that it is securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.
- 6.2 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that 'every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs'.
- 6.3 Part of the proper administration of the Council's affairs must encompass the obligation on the Council to have its accounts audited in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 by an appointed party.
- 6.4 The Council's Constitution gives the Audit Committee responsibility for considering reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of internal and external audit services. The annual report of the Audit Committee details how the audit matters in this Report and Appendix 1 have been addressed to discharge the statutory obligations.
- 6.5 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the Report.

Ian Williams

GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Appendices

Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2016/17