

## Report to Council



Date of Meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Resources
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Public/Private Document	Public

### **Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2019/20**

#### **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 To comply with best professional practice, the Audit and Governance Committee is advised to complete an Annual Report to Council on the work undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee during the year.
- 1.2 Attached at Appendix A is the Annual Report for 2019/20 prepared by the Chair in consultation with the Head of Internal Audit.

#### **Recommendation**

2. That the Annual Report for 2019/20 by the Audit and Governance Committee be endorsed.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

3. To comply with best practice identified within the CIPFA publication: Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 and in order to demonstrate accountability.

#### **Key Points for Consideration**

- 4.1 Given its role in the governance structure and in promoting the principles of good governance, the Audit and Governance Committee should be clear how it supports one of the key principles: accountability. It is also important that the Audit and Governance Committee is, in turn, held to account on the extent to which it has fulfilled its purpose. Aside from the Audit and Governance Committee's requirement to support the Authority's accountability to the public and its stakeholders, and support accountability within the Authority, it is also important that the Committee itself is held to account.

The Annual Report 2019/20 presented in Appendix 1 is the means by which the Audit and Governance Committee demonstrates its accountability to Council, as the overall governing body of the Authority.

4.2

**Alternatives Considered**

No other options were considered as the production of an Annual Report aligns with best practice guidance.

<b>Costs and Budget Summary</b>
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5. Not applicable.

<b>Risk and Policy Implications</b>
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6. The key risk of not producing an Annual Report is that the Audit and Governance Committee does not demonstrate clear accountability and does not therefore comply with best professional practice.

<b>Consultation</b>
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7. Not applicable.

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
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8. None	
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