

DRAFT AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL - 16 NOVEMBER 2021

Council - 16 November 2021

Report of: Cllr McGarvey, Chair of the Audit Committee

Status: For Consideration

Introduction and Background

- 1 This is our report to the Council on the work of the Audit Committee since Council last met in July 2021.
- 2 The Audit Committee is responsible for discharging the functions conferred by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The key responsibilities include approving the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts, approving the Annual Governance Statement, approving the Annual Internal Audit Plan and monitoring and reviewing the work of Internal Audit, and reviewing the arrangements for the management of business risks.
- 3 In line with its Terms of Reference, the Audit Committee meets four times per year and has met once since the last report to Council.
- 4 As Chair of the Committee, I have continued to hold monthly briefings with Officers.
- 5 Details of the range of issues considered by the Committee on 23 September are set out below:

Internal Audit

Date of Meeting	Agenda Items
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal Audit Progress Report 2021/22

Governance, Risk & Anti-Fraud

Date of Meeting	Agenda Items
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members' Allowance Scheme Monitoring 2020/21• Strategic Risk Register

Accounts and External Audit

Date of Meeting	Agenda Items
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement of Accounts 2020/21

- 6 The Audit Committee maintains a constructive dialogue and effective working relationship with the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton who attended on 23 September.
- 7 Training of Audit Committee Members is important to ensure that they can add value to the discussions at the Committee. A Member Development Plan has been agreed by the Committee including a training session on Internal Audit and the Role of the Audit Committee which took place on 23 September.
- 8 Statement of accounts. (comment to be added after the Audit Committee)
- 9 At the July Audit Committee, a report on having independent members on the committee was discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman would attend Audit Committee meetings at other councils that have independent members and report back in January. (Comment to be added regarding progress on this prior to Council)
- 10 It is my opinion that the work of the Committee has a positive impact on the overall control environment within the Council and has developed good working relationships with officers and External Audit, and has offered constructive comments on a range of issues. The Committee continues to develop and improve its understanding of the many technical issues presented to it.
- 11 I thank all members of the Audit Committee for their personal contribution to the work of the Committee. I also thank Officers, in particular Adrian Rowbotham, Fran Chivers and Alan Michell, for the help and support they have given the Committee.

Cllr Philip McGarvey, Chairman, Audit Committee