

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Annual Report

Final Decision-Maker	Audit, Governance & Standards Committee
Lead Head of Service	Rich Clarke – Head of Mid Kent Audit
Lead Officer and Report Author	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager
Classification	Public
Wards affected	N/A

Executive Summary

Based on the activity during the year, the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee can demonstrate it has appropriately and effectively fulfilled its duties during 2020/21. The report details how the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee has effectively discharged those duties and set out the achievements of the Committee during the year.

Purpose of Report

Decision

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. That the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Annual Report for 2020/21 is agreed.
2. That the report is taken to a meeting of the Full Council to demonstrate how the Committee has discharged its duties.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Audit, Governance & Standards Committee	28 September 2021
Council	29 September 2021

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Annual Report

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

The Audit, Governance & Standards Committee must obtain assurance on the control environment of the Council. The internal control environment comprises the whole network of systems and controls established to manage the Council and meet its objectives. It includes financial and other controls, and arrangements for ensuring the Council achieves value for money from its activities.

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	We present this report for decision. The Audit, Governance & Standards Committee's work supports all Council activity and the wider Corporate Priorities in evaluating governance.	Rich Clarke – Head of Mid Kent Audit
Cross Cutting Objectives		
Risk Management		
Financial	There are no additional costs or savings associated with this proposal.	Mark Green – Director Of Finance & Business Improvement
Staffing	There are no staffing implications associated with this proposal	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager
Legal	There are no legal implications identified in the report. The report demonstrates that measures are in place to ensure good governance arrangements which enable the Council to meet statutory requirements.	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager
Privacy and Data Protection	There are no direct privacy or data protection implications associated with this report.	Policy and Information Team
Equalities	There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager
Public Health	There are no direct public health implications associated with this report.	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager

Crime and Disorder	There are no direct crime and disorder implications associated with this report.	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager
Procurement	There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report.	Mark Green – Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Biodiversity and Climate Change	There are no direct biodiversity and climate change implications associated with this report.	Jen Warrillow – Audit Manager

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Audit, Governance & Standards Committee is required to monitor audit activity (internal and external), review and comment on the effectiveness of the Council’s regulatory framework and review and approve the Council’s annual statements of accounts and scrutinise associated strategy and policy. This report sets out how this has been achieved during 2019/20.
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3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The production and presentation of an annual report is required by the Committee’s terms of reference. Therefore, no other alternative options can be recommended.
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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 This report provides the Council with assurance that important governance, risk and standards issues are monitored and addressed.
- 4.2 Our recommendation is for the Committee to agree the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Annual Report (Appendix A), subject to any comments and amendments. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, that the Chairman of the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee then provides the report to a meeting of full Council setting out how the committee has discharged its duties.
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5. RISK

- 5.1 The risks associated with this proposal, including the risks if the Council does not act as recommended, have been considered in line with the Council’s Risk Management Framework. We are satisfied that the risks associated are within the Council’s risk appetite and will be managed as per the Policy.

6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

6.1 This report has been compiled through consultation between Officers and the Chairman of the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee.

7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

7.1 The report will be presented to Full Council in accordance with this Committee's Terms of Reference.

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Annual Report
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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None