

**Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Annual Report**

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Final Decision-Maker</b>           | Audit, Governance and Standards Committee     |
| <b>Lead Head of Service</b>           | Alison Blake – Interim Head of Internal Audit |
| <b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b> | Andy Billingham – Interim Audit Manager       |
| <b>Classification</b>                 | Public  |
| <b>Wards affected</b>                 | All   |

**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 2021/22. The report details how the Audit, Governance & Standards Committee has effectively discharged those duties and sets 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 and Standards Committee Annual Report for 2021/22 is agreed.
2. That the Council be recommended to note the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Annual Report 2021/22 which demonstrates how the Committee discharged its duties during the last Municipal Year.

**Timetable**

| <b>Meeting</b>                            | <b>Date</b>       |
|---|-------------------|
| Audit, Governance and Standards Committee | 27 September 2022 |
| Full Council                              | 28 September 2022 |

# Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Annual Report

## 1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

| Issue                                 | Implications   | Sign-off  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b> | 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.                           | Alison Blake<br>– Interim<br>Head of Audit<br>Partnership                 |
| <b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>       |  |   |
| <b>Risk Management</b>                |  |   |
| <b>Financial</b>                      | There are no additional costs or savings associated with this proposal.  | Mark Green –<br>Director of<br>Finance &<br>Business<br>Improvement       |
| <b>Staffing</b>                       | There are no staffing implications associated with this proposal   | Alison Blake<br>– Interim<br>Head of Audit<br>Partnership                 |
| <b>Legal</b>                          | 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. | Interim Team<br>Leader<br>(Contentious<br>and<br>Corporate<br>Governance) |
| <b>Privacy and Data Protection</b>    | There are no direct privacy or data protection implications associated with this report.   | Policy and<br>Information<br>Team   |
| <b>Equalities</b>                     | There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report.   | Equalities &<br>Communities<br>Officer                                    |
| <b>Public Health</b>                  | There are no direct public health implications associated with this report.  | Alison Blake<br>– Interim<br>Head of Audit<br>Partnership                 |
| <b>Crime and Disorder</b>             | There are no direct crime and disorder implications associated with this report.   | Alison Blake<br>– Interim<br>Head of Audit<br>Partnership                 |

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|  |   |   |
| <b>Procurement</b>                     | There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report.                     | Mark Green – Director of Finance & Business Improvement |
| <b>Biodiversity and Climate Change</b> | There are no direct biodiversity and climate change implications associated with this report. | Alison Blake – Interim Head of Audit Partnership        |

## **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 2021/22.

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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, 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.

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## **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.

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## **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