

Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Audit and Risk	Governance Committee	Wednesday, 31 July 2024

Governance Committee Annual Report

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

- To present the Governance Committee Annual Report 2023/34 for the Committee to consider. The Annual Report will be submitted to Full Council for consideration and noting.

Recommendations

- That the Committee consider and recommend the report's presentation to Full Council.

Reasons for recommendations

- The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022" contains a requirement for the Committee to provide an annual report for presentation to Full Council.

Other options considered and rejected

- None.

Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Background to the report

6. The Committee's revised Terms of Reference, based on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy ("CIPFA") best practice guidance, were approved by the Committee in November 2023. They set out the Committee's statement of purpose and accountability arrangements.
7. Part of the Committee's purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements in the Council. Its role in ensuring there is sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control gives greater confidence to all those charged with governance and that those arrangements are effective.
8. The Terms of Reference require the Committee to:
 - report to full Council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose;
 - publish an annual report on the work of the committee, including a conclusion on the compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement.
9. This is the first Annual Report for the Committee to consider which is set out at Appendix A. It sets out the work undertaken by the Committee during the year ending 31 March 2024. It demonstrates accountability to the public and stakeholders for the important role that is carried out by the Committee and its contribution to the Council's overall governance arrangements.

Climate change and air quality

10. The work noted in this report does not impact on the Council's Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.

Equality and diversity

11. The material presented and discussed in this report has not direct implications on equality and diversity.

Risk

12. Failure to produce an annual report would result in not meeting the requirements set out in the best practice - The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

13. Not applicable.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

14. Not applicable.

Background documents

15. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022.

Appendices

Appendix A – Governance Committee Annual Report

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