

Governance Committee

1. This report summarises the business undertaken at the Governance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2025. Please note that the report may not reflect the wording or detail included in the minutes once they are published.

General Report of the Meeting Held on 22 January 2025

2. Reports presented, and the link to the recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=688&MId=10624&Ver=4>

External Audit Findings Report Update

3. The Council's External Auditors, Grant Thornton, presented their updated audit findings report to us. The update related to the completion, and findings, of work around the valuation of the council's land and assets. We were also advised that the 2023/2024 audit work was being finalised, with completion expected before the February backstop date. We noted the report.

Internal Audit Interim Report

4. The findings of six internal audit reviews that had been completed and an update on implementation of agreed actions on previously reported internal audits undertaken were presented to us by the Senior Auditor. Of the six completed reviews, two had been given an assurance rating as 'substantial', two 'adequate' and two 'limited'. We asked a number of questions, particularly on fuel management and CCTV, that had been given a limited assurance rating and subsequently noted the report.

Governance Committee Effectiveness

5. The Head of Audit and Risk presented a report that evaluated the committee's compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance. We were pleased that all actions identified in the last assessment had been addressed and that the committee operated in line with best practice guidance. We encouraged further training for committee members to maintain its high standards and highlighted the benefits of consistent membership of the committee. We noted the report.

Annual Governance Statement: Management Actions Update

6. The Head of Legal and Procurement presented us with a progress update on management actions agreed and included within the Annual Governance Statement. We asked a number of questions and noted the report.

Recommendations

To note the report.

Councillor Alan Platt

Chair of the Governance Committee

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