

Report sponsor: Chair of Audit and Governance Committee
Report author: Head of Internal Audit

Audit and Governance Committee – Self-Assessment of Effectiveness 2021/22

Purpose

- 1.1 A well-functioning Audit Committee is regarded as key to helping its organisation to achieve good corporate governance.
- 1.2 The Audit and Governance Committee should regularly assess its own performance – and the adequacy of its terms of reference, work plans, forums of discussion and communication – with a view to highlighting skills and/or knowledge gaps and identifying areas in which the committee and its processes might be more effective.

Recommendations

- 2.1 Members to each complete the self-assessment questionnaire. (Appendix 1)

Reasons

- 3.1 The Committee is a key element of the Council's governance framework and it needs to demonstrate a high level of effectiveness in how it carries out its core business.
- 3.2 A regular self-assessment can be used to support the planning of the Audit and Governance Committee work programme and training plans. It can also inform the annual report of the Committee.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The Audit and Accounts Committee last undertook a self-assessment exercise in February/March 2020.
- 4.2 It has been agreed with the Chair of the Committee that each member will be asked to complete a self-assessment questionnaire (see Appendix 1). This questionnaire is the same one that the Committee members completed in 2020.

- 4.3 The questionnaire provides a high-level review that incorporates the key principles set out in CIPFA's Position Statement and the CIPFA publication "audit committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2018 Edition). Where an audit committee has a high degree of performance against the good practice principles, then it is an indicator that the Committee is soundly based and has in place a knowledgeable membership. These are the essential factors in developing an effective audit committee.
- 4.4 Once completed, the questionnaires should be sent to the Head of Internal Audit by Monday 28th February 2022 at the latest.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 None

Other options

- 6.1 None

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None

Legal implications

- 8.1 None

Climate implications

- 9.1 None

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Cllr West	18/01/2022
Background papers: None		
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Committee Self-Assessment Questionnaire		