

Title of Report	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24	
Presented by	Paul Stone Strategic Director of Resources	
Background Papers		Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising from this report.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: yes	
Legal Implications	There are no legal implications arising from this report.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing or corporate implications arising from this report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: yes	
Purpose of Report	To provide a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee during the 2023/24 financial year.	
Recommendations	THAT AUDIT COMMITTEE NOTES THE DETAILS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 AND APPROVES THE DRAFT PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL ON 7 MAY 2024.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24 is designed to inform the full Council of the Committee’s activities during the financial year, and how it has discharged its responsibilities. The Audit and Governance Committee is now asked to formally approve this report prior to it being reported to Full Council on 7 May 2024.

2.0 ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

- 2.1 The production of an annual report by the audit committee is considered to be good practice by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. It is important that the wider membership of the Council is kept informed of the work to ensure sound control and governance. The report to Council is an essential part of this process.

- 2.2 The annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee is shown in Appendix 1. It summarises the activities of the Committee and demonstrates how it has discharged its duties. It highlights the achievements of the Committee and is a useful reminder to the organisation of the role of the Committee in providing assurance about its governance, risk management and financial controls.
- 2.3 The collaboration between the Director of Resources, Head of Internal Audit, and the Audit and Governance Committee's chair and deputy chair, along with other committee members, is a critical process in the drafting of the Annual Report. This cooperative effort ensures that the report is comprehensive, reflecting the organisation's financial health and adherence to regulatory requirements.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	- A Well-Run Council
Policy Considerations:	None.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	None.
Customer Impact:	None.
Economic and Social Impact:	None.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon	None.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Members of the Audit Committee have been widely consulted on the draft report.
Risks:	The Audit and Governance Committee has a leading role to play in ensuring that the Council's governance arrangements are effective and contribute to the mitigation of risks.
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