

Committee: Audit and Standards

Date of meeting: 6 March 2019

Subject:	Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report
Lead Officer:	Sarah Selvanathan – Strategic Director and Deputy Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Ruth Mitchell - Resources
Link to Council Priorities:	All
Exempt information:	None
Delegated status:	For recommendation to Council on 3 April 2019

Executive Summary:

This report sets out the work of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2018/19 and highlights where its work has made a difference to performance, overall governance and the assurance structures of the Authority.

Recommended: that

The Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report for 2018-19 be submitted to the Council Meeting on 3 April 2019

Report:

1. Reason for Report

It is good practice to have an Annual Report to Council, which provides all Members with an opportunity to understand and be updated on the work of the Committee. This is the tenth Annual Report by the Audit and Standards Committee and covers the year 2018/19.

2. Key Implication

The Committee has overseen good progress in all areas under its supervision, particularly in terms of audit performance, overall governance and the assurance framework of the Authority.

Financial implications:

A key role of the Committee is to oversee the Authority's control environment and its associated system of internal controls and assurance processes. The Committee must satisfy itself that the Authority's assurance statements, in particular the Annual Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions needed to improve it. This is done through receiving and scrutinising reports on the relevant areas and calling officers to account where necessary.

Environmental/Sustainability Implications: None

Legal implications:

The work of the Committee is part of the Council's arrangements towards satisfying its duty under the Local Government Act to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Equality Implications: None

Risk Implications:

The purpose of the Audit and Standards Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the strategic risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the Authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.

Community Safety Implications: None

Principal Consultees: Senior officers

Background papers: None, other than published papers

Enclosures/Appendices: Audit and Standards Annual Report 2018-19

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