



Audit and Governance Committee

20th June 2024

Title:	Audit & Governance Draft Annual Report
Report of:	John Pye – Independent Person and Chair.
Lead Member:	Cllr Edna Murphy – Lead Member for Governance
Public Report:	Yes

Recommendations:

A	The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to comment on the draft Annual Report of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee for 2023/24 (Appendix 1) before it is submitted to the Combined Authority Board.
B	Approve the draft report subject to agreed changes.

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

Achieving Best Value and High Performance

1. Purpose

1.1	The Audit and Governance Committee has been in operation since the Combined Authority Board approved the membership and appointment of the Independent Person in May 2017. The Committee met eight times during the 2022/23 municipal year. The Committee provides independent challenge and assurance of the adequacy of risk management, internal control including internal audit, anti-fraud and the financial reporting framework.
1.2	The Draft Annual Report of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee is the work carried out by the Committee over the municipal year 2021/22 is at Appendix A.

2. Proposal

2.1	The Committee are requested to provide comments and feedback on the draft annual report while noting that this is a working draft which will be finalised once the auditors' opinions have been received and noted by the Committee.
2.2	The Committee agree that any changes required are done in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and that a final version of the report will be circulated to members of the Committee before being taken to the CA Board on the 24 th July.

3. Background

3.1	It is recommended by relevant professional bodies that audit and governance committees should produce an annual report which details the work of the Committee for the Municipal Year. A draft annual report has been prepared for 2023/24 (Appendix A).
3.2	<p>The draft annual report shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the Committee, its roles, responsibilities and membership; • An overview and coverage of its remit including Internal Audit, Accounts and Financial Management, External Audit, Risk Management, Control Assurance, Corporate Governance, and Fraud and Irregularities; • Training provided to ensure that suitable challenge and scrutiny is adopted. • Records of complaints, Freedom of Information requests and attendance levels for the committee to consider.

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A: Working Draft A&G Annual Report
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The Annual Report helps to demonstrate how the Audit & Governance Committee has helped the Combined Authority to improve its governance and control of risks throughout the year, both of which are important in demonstrating Value for Money and Best Value.
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Legal Implications

6.1	The provision of an adequate and effective Governance and Audit Committee is a requirement in law, under The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 and under the CPCA constitution. The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 regulates Combined Authorities' Audit committees.
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Public Health Implications

7.1

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1

Other Significant Implications

9.1

Background Papers

10.1	A&G Report – March 2024
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