



Combined Authority Board

24 July 2024

Title:	Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2023/24
Report of:	Edwina Adefehinti, Director Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	Note the Annual Report of the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for 2023-24 (Appendix A).
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Strategic Objective(s):

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 well-run Audit Committee will strongly support the Combined Authority in all its strategic objectives as outlined below.

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities
	Achieving Best Value and High Performance

1. Purpose

1.1	The Audit & Governance Committee has a wide-ranging remit that underpins the Combined Authority's governance processes by providing independent challenge and assurance of the adequacy of risk management, internal control including internal audit, anti-fraud and the financial reporting framework. These are detailed in its terms of reference.
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2. Proposal

2.1	It is important for the Audit and Governance Committee to review annually the work undertaken by the committee to ensure best practice and effectiveness for the Combined Authority is being achieved.
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2.2	The Annual Report of the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee shows the work carried out by the Committee over the 2023/24 municipal year.
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3. Background

3.1	At its meeting on 8 March 2024 the Audit and Governance Committee approved the Annual Report of the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee for submission to the Combined Authority. The Annual Report forms Appendix A to this report.
3.2	<p>The 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. Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report
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5. Implications

Financial Implications	
5.1	None
Legal Implications	
5.2	There are no legal implications arising from this report. It is good practice for Audit & Governance Committees to submit an annual report to their authority board.
Public Health Implications	
5.3	None
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
5.4	None
Other Significant Implications	
5.5	None
Background Papers	
5.6	Audit and Governance Report and Minutes – 8 March 2024