
Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference

Audit & Risk Committee

Decision to be taken by: Council

Date of meeting: 17th March 2021

Lead director: Colin Sharpe

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Amy Oliver
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- Report version number: v1

1. Purpose of the Report

To propose, for the approval of the Committee, revisions to the terms of reference.

2. Recommendations

Audit & Risk Committee is recommended to support the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference and recommend to Council they are adopted.

3. Summary

The Audit & Risk Committees terms of reference have been updated to ensure they reflect our current arrangements and ensure we comply with the CIPFA best practice. CIPFA's position statement on Audit Committees recognises the key component the committee play in supporting good governance and strong public financial management.

Changes to the Terms of Reference will need to be approved by full Council. It is proposed the amended Terms of Reference for the Audit & Risk Committee are taken to Council at the same time as other changes to the constitution, planned for later in the year.

The main areas of change to the terms of reference are detailed below:

- An update of the senior officers attending the meetings regularly and the ability to allow delegations.
- Removing areas of the constitution that are elsewhere in the constitution or repeated in the committee's terms of reference.
- The separation of governance from internal audit, following the transfer of the internal audit function to the County.
- Changes in the reporting of complaints to the Committee, to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.
- Change of membership to allow an Executive member to sit on the Committee. However, they cannot be chair, this is to maintain the independence of the Committee and ensure good governance.
- Quorum is a minimum of three non-executive councillors.
- Inclusion of an annual report on insurance.
- Reflects the updated arrangements for procurement reporting.
- Focussed on driving the Committee's annual work plan.

A copy of the proposed terms of reference can be found at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 contains a copy of the current terms of reference.

4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

4.1 Financial implications

None

4.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report – Kamal Adatia 37 1401

4.3 Equalities implications

None

4.4 Climate Emergency implications

None

4.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

5. Background information and other papers:

6. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Current Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference

7. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

8. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why? No