

## **Chair Reports to Full Council –**

### **Audit and Standards Committee September 2020**

#### **Draft Members Code of Conduct**

The Local Government Association published a Draft Model Member Code of Conduct which was open for consultation from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Concerns were expressed at the lack of clear and robust sanctions proposed within the draft code and that some of the terms used in the draft code required further definition. The Committee also expressed their disappointment at the method of consultation and felt that this would result in a low return response. A letter was sent by the Chair of the Committee to the LGA expressing the views of the Committee on the draft code as discussed in the meeting.

#### **Internal Audit Annual Audit Opinion 2019/20**

The Internal Audit Opinion for the year was that the Council's system of internal controls continues to operate effectively. The Head of Finance and Property expressed his thanks and appreciation to members of the Audit team for their hard work and dedication during the pandemic period.

#### **Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2019/20**

The production of the AGS is a statutory requirement of the Council and must be approved by a committee. The responsibility to approve the AGS is undertaken by this Committee.

The Committee reviewed and approved the AGS for the 2019/20 financial year.

As this was Asad Mushtaq's last Committee meeting as Head of Finance and Property, the Committee expressed its thanks to Asad for his hard work at the Council and wished him every success in his new role.

#### **Strategic Risk Register**

The Committee considered a revised Strategic Risk Register. The Strategic Risk Register was reviewed in March 2020 and has been updated to include the impact of the pandemic. A Pandemic Risk was included within the register and all risk scores were re-evaluated. This has resulted in an increased score for three risk areas which means that they have now become a High Priority Risk. The three areas were 'Financial stability', 'Inability to deliver the regeneration programme' and 'Risks in responding to demographic changes and increased deprivation'.