

Chair's Report to Full Council –

Audit and Standards Committee March 2021

Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2019/20

The AGS for 2019/20 was re-presented to the Committee to provide reassurance that no significant control or governance issues had been identified since the AGS was last reported to the Committee in July 2020.

Statement of Accounts 2019/20 and Audit Findings Report

The Council's audited Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 were presented to the Committee for approval. Delays in the publication and audit of the Statement of Accounts and the reasons and challenges were discussed. The Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, reported on their findings during the audit process, together with the Value for Money commentary, and concluded that it would lead to an unqualified conclusion. The content and recommendations of the audit findings report were discussed.

Internal Audit Report Update Quarter 3

This report outlined the work of internal audit and the current status of the plan. The impact of Covid and staff vacancies in terms of both the available resources and on new risks which required coverage was discussed.

Strategic Risk Register

The updated Strategic Risk register for the Council was reviewed.

Final Account Arrangements 2020/21 and 2021/22

This report provided an update to the recent extension of the publication dates for unaudit and audited Statement of Accounts for the two financial years. The Council's Accounting Policies for inclusion in the 2020/21 accounts were reviewed.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) – Corporate Policy

The revised Corporate Policy for Covert Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources under RIPA was considered.

Councillor Paul Campbell

Chair of Audit and Standards Committee

April 2021