

Chair Reports to Full Council –

Audit and Standards Committee March 2022

Financial Management Code

This report updated the Committee on the requirement to implement the Financial Management Code for the 2021/22 and to provide an assessment of compliance against the Code. The Code sets the standards of financial management required within local authorities. Members of the Committee noted that the Council had assessed it had been compliant with the Code during the 2021/22 financial year.

Audit Findings Report 2020/21 Grant Thornton

The Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, updated the Committee on the progress on completing the 2020/21 audit together with the Value for Money assessment. These are expected to be finalised shortly and Grant Thornton would provide an update to the Committee on the outcome.

Internal Audit Progress Report Q3 2021/22

This report provided the Committee with progress on the work undertaken by Internal Audit for the period 1 October to 31 December 2021. Performance against the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan was reported with the actual delivery for the year were on target even though there had been some redeployment of Auditor resource to support Covid activities. The report advised that an Auditor was due to leave the Council at the end of March 2022 which would have an impact on the service until recruitment had been completed.

Final Account Arrangements 2021/22

This report set out the arrangements made to date ahead of the closure of the 2021/22 accounts. Statutory deadlines for publishing the unaudited and audited accounts had been extended in line with the extensions provided for the 2020/21 accounts closure. The Committee approved the accounting policies to be used in the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

Strategic Risk Register Update

The Committee considered a revised Strategic Risk Register following the revision of the Strategic Plan approved in February. The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed on a regular basis and the Committee recommended the updated document to the Executive.

Internal Audit Plan 2022/23

This report informed the Committee of the audit planning process and sought approval on the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23.

The Committee reviewed and approved the plan for the 2022/23 financial year.

Audit & Standards Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee considered recommended changes for its terms of reference. Recommendations had been proposed to ensure that the terms of reference were in accordance with guidance and best practice issued by government bodies and CiPFA. The recommendations were discussed and agreed to be passed to Member Structures Working Group for consideration.