

Report of the Executive Director Core Services

Audit Committee – 3rd June 2020

Revisions to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This brief report highlights the suggested amendments to the Committee's Terms of Reference following the review undertaken recently. The amendments are not significant but will ensure that the Committee's remit is accurately reflected and meets recommended best practice. The changes also include the renaming of the committee to the Audit and Governance Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee agrees the amendments highlighted below and agree to actioning these changes through the delegated authority of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson, in accordance with the Constitution, in the absence of a Council meeting.**
- 2.2 **It is also recommended that part of the Committee's development session in October each year is devoted to a self-assessment review covering the terms of reference for the Committee.**

3. Review of the Terms of Reference

- 3.1 It is good practice to periodically review the effectiveness of the Audit Committee including the terms of reference. Members of the Committee recently completed two questionnaires, one to consider how the Committee operates and one to look specifically at the terms of reference.
- 3.2 The results of both questionnaires were discussed by the Committee at a briefing session prior to the January meeting following which the suggested amendments to the terms of reference have been made.

Section B – Internal Control incorporating Risk Management, Financial Probity and Stewardship

- c) To **consider** such policies for consideration and approval by the Council

Section D – External Audit and other Inspectorates or Regulatory Bodies

S) To consider any payments in excess of £2,000 or provide other benefits in cases of maladministration by the Authority within the scope of Section 92 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Section E – Other

t) To consider general issues and statistics in relation to the Council's Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy.

- 3.3 The outcome of the effectiveness review focussed largely on obtaining information and assurance regarding how the Authority governs its partnerships and collaborations, preparing an annual report to promote the work of the Committee and ensure its status and profile within the Authority were raised and encouraging senior management to attend the Committee to present items. All these areas have been taken into account in the work-plan for the Committee over the next municipal year.
- 3.5 Also recognised as part of the review process was that the name of the Committee should be changed to the Audit and Governance Committee to more accurately reflect the broader perspective and remit beyond traditional areas of financial and internal audit and therefore encompass the breadth of governance across the Authority. Again, the work-plan has been prepared to reflect that broader perspective.

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