



Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date:	11 May 2022
Title:	Audit Committee Review of Effectiveness
Relevant councillor(s):	Councillor Richard Newcombe
Author and/or contact officer:	Maggie Gibb, Head of Business Assurance (& Chief Auditor)
Ward(s) affected:	N/A
Recommendations:	To note the report
Reason for decision:	N/A

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 A review of the effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee is scheduled to take place in June 2022.
- 1.2 The review will be based on the CIPFA publication "Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities (2018).
- 1.3 The review will be carried out through consultation with members of the committee and officers who have attended the meetings on a regular basis.
- 1.4 A report will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 28 July 2022.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Audit Committees are a key component of the Council's governance framework. Their function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management.
- 2.2 The purpose of an Audit Committee is to provide those charged with governance in the Council, independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk

management framework, internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes.

- 2.3 By overseeing both Internal and External Audit, it makes an important contribution to ensuring that effective management arrangements are in place.
- 2.4 As outlined in the CIPFA publication “Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities (2018)”, the core functions of the Audit Committee are to:
- (a) Be satisfied that the authority’s assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it, and demonstrate how governance supports the achievement of the Council’s objectives.
 - (b) In relation to the Council’s Internal Audit functions: Oversee its independence, objectivity, performance and professionalism; Support the effectiveness of the Internal Audit process; Promote the effective use of Internal Audit within the assurance framework.
 - (c) Consider the effectiveness of the authority’s risk management arrangements and the control environments. Review the risk profile of the organisation and assurances that action is being taken on risk-related issues.
 - (d) Monitor the effectiveness of the control environment, including arrangements for ensuring value for money and for managing the authority’s exposure to the risk of fraud and corruption.
 - (e) Consider the reports and recommendations of External Audit, and other inspection agencies where applicable, and their implications for governance, risk management or control.
 - (f) Support effective relationships between External Audit and Internal Audit, inspections agencies and other relevant bodies and encourage the active promotion of the value of the audit process.
 - (g) Review the financial statements, External Auditor’s opinion and reports to Members, and monitor management actions in response to the issues raised by External Audit.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 N/A.



4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 None.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 None.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 N/A.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 Review of effectiveness to be carried out in June 2022 and findings reported to Audit and Governance Committee in July 2022.

9. Background papers

9.1 None.

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.