

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

14 December 2018

REVIEW OF THE REMIT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Joint Report of the Chair and Executive Director of Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of a review of the remit and effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee for discussion, amendment and agreement of Members of the Committee, and approve the suggested updated Terms of Reference for the Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 The first review of the remit and effectiveness of the Committee took place in 2009 when it was decided that the review would be undertaken every three years in line with good practice.
- 2.2 The format of the review has included an update of the self assessment, based on CIPFA guidance issued in 2018, a review of the Terms of Reference for the Committee and consideration of the Annual Reports on the Work of the Committee which have been prepared in the last three years. The review has been undertaken by the Chair and the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the results are presented to Members for discussion, amendment and agreement.

3. Self Assessment

- 3.1 The self assessment has been updated and is attached at Appendix 1. From this it is considered appropriate to slightly update the wording of the Terms of Reference for the Committee in line with CIPFA's latest guidance, the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference are shown at Appendix 2, this does not however change the role or functions of the Committee.
- 3.2 Members will see from the self-assessment that it is considered that the Council's arrangements comply with all of the CIPFA guidance apart from one area. This is due to the requirement for the unaudited statement of accounts having to now be published by the end of May each year. This means that the Committee does not have the opportunity to consider the Annual Governance Statement before it is approved by the Leader, Chief Executive and Executive

Director of Corporate Services given the current timing of committee meetings. A revised schedule of meetings is therefore proposed from February 2019, this is attached at Appendix 3 and includes the transition period. This will allow the committee to meet 4 times a year instead of 6 which would be necessary should an additional meeting be included just to consider the Annual Governance Statement.

- 3.3 The self-assessment refers to the Annual Reports on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee which show how the CIPFA guidance is being complied with. The reports are considered by the Committee and then presented to Full Council to demonstrate the impact of the Committee's work.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider, discuss and agree the self-assessment at Appendix 1.
- Agree the proposed updated Terms of Reference at Appendix 2.
- Consider and agree the proposed revised schedule of meetings at Appendix 3.