

Wiltshire Council

Audit and Governance Committee

23 April 2024

Annual Update to Council

Purpose of Report

1. To request that the Audit and Governance Committee delegate authority to the Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman, to prepare an annual update of the activity of the Audit and Governance Committee, for consideration by Full Council on 21 May 2024.

Background

2. The Audit and Governance Committee's responsibilities as set out at Paragraph 2.7.9 of Part 3B of the Constitution include, but is not limited to:
 - Receiving and commenting on external audit plans;
 - Monitor implementation of management actions arising from external audit work;
 - Approving terms of reference and strategy for internal audit;
 - Monitor and review the effectiveness of internal audit;
 - Oversee the process for production of the annual governance statement;
 - Monitor the development and implementation of the anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policy, anti money-laundering, and anti tax-evasion policies;
 - Review and approve the annual statement of accounts.

Main Considerations

3. In accordance with the Constitution Full Council has established many committees to be responsible for the discharge or oversight of many of the council's non-executive functions
4. Examples of these committees include planning and licensing committees, Standards Committee, and the Standards Committee.
5. In order to highlight the functions of and work of various committees which otherwise may work in relative isolation from other aspects of the council, it is proposed that an annual update be prepared of the operations of various committees, including Audit and Governance Committee, for consideration by Full Council at its annual meeting on 21 May 2024.
6. It is proposed this would be a short update taken on an annual basis similar to the annual report on Overview and Scrutiny. This would briefly set out the role and purpose of the committee, its level of activity, issues which had been discussed or investigated, as well as significant developments relevant to the remit of the committee, for example changes to legislation.

7. As there remains four weeks of the municipal year at the time of the writing of this report, it is proposed that the Director, Legal and Governance, be given delegated authority to prepare the annual update, after consultation from the Chairman.

Safeguarding Implications

8. There are no safeguarding implications arising from this report.

Public Health Implications

9. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Procurement Implications

10. There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

11. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

12. There are no environmental or climate change implications arising from this report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is not taken

13. No risks have been identified arising from this report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken

14. No risks have been identified arising from this report.

Finance Implications

15. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

16. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Workforce Implications

17. There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

Conclusions

18. Providing annual updates to Full Council on committee activity will highlight the role of council committees and sub-committees and draw attention to any significant developments or issues within the remit of the committee.

Proposal

19. To delegate authority to the Director, Legal and Governance, after consultation with the Chairman, to prepare an annual update to Full Council.

Perry Holmes - Director, Legal and Governance

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Background Papers

None