



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL

REPORT

2022/23

Standards and Audit Committee

Chesterfield Borough Council

Annual Report 2022/23

1. Background

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in their guidance note "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities", recommend that an Audit Committee should produce an annual report on their activity.
- 1.2 The Standards and Audit Committee produce an annual report as a means of assessing how the Committee is performing and raising the profile of the work of the Committee across the Council.
- 1.3 Audit Committees are widely recognised as a core component of effective governance, their key role is to independently oversee and assess the internal control environment, comprising governance, risk management and control and advise the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements. At Chesterfield Borough Council the statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members is also overseen by the Committee.
- 1.4 The Committee is responsible for: –
 - Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct
 - Good governance
 - Internal Audit
 - External Audit
 - Risk Management
 - Treasury Management
 - The control environment
 - Anti-fraud and anti- corruption arrangements
 - Carrying out hearings into alleged misconduct by councillors

Details of the responsibilities of the Committee are set out in the Council's Constitution (Part 2, Article 9).

- 1.5 The Committee meets on a regular basis and is chaired by Councillor Kate Caulfield. The Committee is advised by the Service Director - Finance, Theresa Channell, the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium, Jenny Williams, and the Monitoring Officer, Gerard Rogers.

2. Membership and Meetings

- 2.1 The Standards and Audit Committee is composed of eight members, 6 councillors and 2 parish representative members (appointed by Brimington Parish Council and Staveley Town Council respectively). During 2022/23 these members were: -
Councillor Caulfield (Chair)
Councillor Kellman (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Rayner
Councillor Brady
Councillor Murphy
Councillor Snowdon
Councillor Brittain / Cawthorne (Brimington Parish Council)
Councillor Wilson (Staveley Town Council)
- 2.2 The meetings are also attended by the Council's external auditor Mazars.
- 2.3 During the 2022/23 financial year the Standards and Audit Committee met on 5 occasions.

3. Standards and Audit Committee Business

- 3.1 During the year the Committee conducted the following business:
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Internal Audit

- Received the annual internal audit report for 2021/22
- Approved the internal audit plan for 2022/23
- Received internal audit updates of progress against the audit plan for 2022/23
- Monitored the implementation of internal audit recommendations
- Received and approved the Internal Audit Charter
- Discussed the limited assurance internal audit reports and sought assurances from responsible officers. (market Fees, planning Fee income, non – housing property repairs and housing rents).

- Considered the CIPFA publication – Internal Audit Untapped Potential

External Audit

- Received the external auditors audit completion report and letter of representation
- Received an external audit progress update

Statement of Accounts

- Approved the 2021/22 statement of accounts

Treasury Management

- Considered the treasury management 2021/22 annual report and monitoring report 2022/23
- Approved the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy (including investment and capital strategy).

Risk Management

- Considered the Risk Management Strategy for 2023 - 2027 and received an annual progress update.

Good Governance

- Reviewed and approved the Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22
- Produced the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee for Council
- Considered the Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2021/22
- Approved Constitution updates
- Received the RIPA annual report and inspection 2022
- Reviewed the decisions taken by officers under delegated powers
- Noted Cabinet approvals in respect of the revisions to the Corporate Complaints Procedures
- Reviewed the unreasonable complaints policy

4. The Committee's Main Achievements / Outcomes

The Standards and Audit Committee aims to add value through its activity and this year its most significant achievements have been to: -

- Ensure that for the Limited Assurance internal audit reports issued in the year that Officers are taking action to remedy the issues identified.
- Ensure that internal audit recommendations are actioned in a timely fashion.
- Ensure that the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement is a true and transparent reflection of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements.
- Reviewed and commented on the Council's new 4 year risk management strategy.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Committee has continued to make a positive contribution to the Council's overall governance risk, and control arrangements.
- 5.2 The Committee will continue to support the Council in the year ahead by supporting the work of internal and external audit, the Service Director -Finance and the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Kate Caulfield (Chair)
Chesterfield Borough Council Standards and Audit
Committee