

For publication

Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee

Meeting:	Council
Date:	13 th October 2021
Cabinet portfolio:	Governance
Directorate:	Finance
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To set out the work of the Standards and Audit Committee for 2020/21 in an annual report in line with best practice.
- 1.2 This report was considered by the Standards and Audit Committee at its meeting on 28 July, 2021 where it was resolved that the report and its recommendations be supported and referred to Council for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council approve the Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Standards and Audit Committee are following good practice guidelines in line with CIPFA's guidance note "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities" in terms of performance and effectiveness.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 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. The Standards and Audit Committee agreed that the production of an Annual Report would help assess how the Committee was performing and would also raise the profile of the Committee.

- 4.2 The Annual Report in Appendix 1 summarises the work of the Standards and Audit Committee for the financial year 2020/21.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 The report is for information.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

- 6.1 The Standards and Audit Committee play a critical role in ensuring that the Council's governance, control and risk management arrangements are appropriate. Appropriate governance, control and risk management arrangements help to ensure that the council's resources and priorities are focused on achieving the objectives within the council plan.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 7.1 The work of the Standards and Audit Committee helps to ensure that processes and controls are operating effectively thereby contributing to ensuring that value for money is obtained.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 8.1 None

9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 9.1 None

10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

- 10.1 The production of this report provides assurance to Council that the Standards and Audit Committee are fulfilling their terms of reference which reduces the risk of a failure of governance, control and risk management arrangements.

11.0 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing

11.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct community and wellbeing impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

12.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct economy and skills impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

13.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct climate change impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

14.1 None

Document information

Report author	
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Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
None	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee 2020/2021