

Standards and Audit Committee Self - Assessment Results February 2021

	Question	Comments received	Current Position	Proposed action	Progress at October 2021
1	Is the role and purpose of the audit committee understood and accepted across the authority?	In part Not sure A lot more than it was however I would say the weakest link is with members. I am at a loss on how to solve this to the standard I would like.	This is previously felt to have been addressed by the production of an annual report that is presented to Council.	Continued production of annual report for Council.	The 2020/21 Standards and Audit Committee Annual Report went to Council 13 th October 2021 Managers across the authority understand that if their area receives Limited or Inadequate assurance internal audit reports then they will be required to attend the Committee to provide assurances Complete
2	Is an annual evaluation undertaken to assess whether the committee is fulfilling its terms of reference and that adequate consideration has been given to all core areas?	Not sure	From a review of the reports and matters considered by the Standards and Audit Committee during the year it can be confirmed that the committee is fulfilling its terms of reference. It can also be confirmed that the Committees terms of reference cover all of CIPFA's core functions of an audit committee as detailed in its guidance.	To be considered annually by the Internal Audit Consortium Manager, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer when the Standards and Audit Committee annual report is produced.	Considered when producing the annual report. The introduction of a Committee work programme also helps to demonstrate the range of reports considered and that these cover the Committee's terms of reference. Complete

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3	<p>Do the committee's terms of reference explicitly address all the core areas identified in CIPFA's Position Statement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value for money or best value 	<p>Part</p> <p>I think this is implied rather than explicit. The ongoing work on procurement would lead to consideration of "value for money" but we are not at that granular level of detail as yet. I think consideration of VFM should play a greater role in work of Standards Committee to give promote confidence in CBC use of public money in light of current economic and financial pressures.</p>	<p>VFM issues highlighted when encountered e.g. procurement audit.</p> <p>This is also achieved by ensuring that there are good governance arrangements in place – review and approval of the Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>In respect of 2019/20 external audit concluded that the Council has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.</p> <p>Internal audit will highlight any value for money issues encountered during audits for example in respect of procurement.</p>	<p>Liaison with the external auditors to see if there is a part for the committee to play in terms of value for money.</p>	<p>Review and approval of the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement and Compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance.</p> <p>Overseeing the findings of internal and external audit and monitoring the implementation of recommendations</p> <p>Taking note of External Audits conclusion in relation to VFM processes</p> <p>Complete</p>

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4	Has the audit committee considered the wider areas identified in CIPFA's Position Statement and whether it would be appropriate for the committee to undertake them?	Not sure that I have the necessary experience or qualifications to undertake This task.	<p>Wider areas identified by CIPFA are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering governance, risk or control matters at the request of other committees or statutory officers (the Committee would do this) • Working with local standards and ethics committees to support ethical values (Also a Standards Committee so already do this) • Reviewing and monitoring treasury management arrangements (not in terms of reference however is undertaken) • Providing oversight of other public reports, such as the annual report (CBC does not produce an annual report however officers bring other relevant public reports to the committees' attention. Other reports may be discussed by alternative relevant committees.) 3 	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>Monitoring Officer to update the Standards and Audit Committee terms of reference to include reviewing and monitoring treasury management arrangements</p> <p>None</p>	<p>The Committee's Terms of Reference within the Constitution has been updated to include treasury management.</p> <p>Complete</p>

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5	Has the committee maintained its advisory role by not taking on any decision-making powers that are not in line with its core purpose?	Unaware of the role of the Audit committee in relation to the Constitution	Officers ensure that the Committee only make decisions in line with its delegated authority and maintain its advisory role.	None	N/A
6	Are arrangements in place to support the committee with briefings and training?	Not sure I have had sufficient training.	Members receive training at their start of office. Reports are fully explained by Officers and the opportunity given to raise questions.	Members of the Committee to raise with Democratic Services any additional training needs and this can be arranged.	Training delivered to new Member of the Committee July 21 Complete

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7	Has the membership of the committee been assessed against the core knowledge and skills framework and found to be satisfactory?	No Not sure Part	<p>The Core knowledge and skills areas identified by CIPFA in its guidance at Appendix C are: -</p> <p>Organisational knowledge Audit Committee role and functions Governance Internal Audit Financial Management and Accounting External Audit Risk Management Counter Fraud Values of good governance Treasury management</p> <p>Not all members need to have knowledge in every area as long as the Committee do as a whole</p>	Members to consider if overall there is a lack of knowledge and skills in any of the areas listed.	No concerns raised Complete

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8	Does the chair of the committee have appropriate knowledge and skills?	Part Yes. I believe the chair has a background in auditing. Being Chair I never like to directly answer this. However, I do have knowledge of auditing and risk assessment from my day job, also I have been in training and in the role for almost 8 years	The Chair has the appropriate knowledge and skills and has successfully been in the role for many years.	None.	N/A
9	Does the committee have an action plan to improve any areas of weakness?	Not that I'm aware of.	The previous self-assessment did not identify any weaknesses therefore no action plan was produced.	This action plan to be proposed for adoption by the committee in February 2021	Plan approved February 2021 Complete