

Date of Meeting 21 November 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

## Self – assessment of good practice against CIPFA’s Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022

### Report summary:

Recent training held for Audit and Governance Members considered CIPFA’s (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Position Statement on Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022.

This represents CIPFA’s view on the audit committee practice and principles that local government bodies in the UK should adopt. The Statement sets out the purpose, model, core functions and expected membership of the audit committee. It is expected that all local government bodies should make their best efforts to adopt the principles, aiming for effective audit committee arrangements. This will enable those bodies to meet their statutory responsibilities for governance and internal control arrangements, financial management, financial reporting, and internal audit. The guidance is supported by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Home Office. A copy of the Statement is contained in the background link.

The Statement contains a self-assessment good practice tool which the Director of Finance has completed with the Chair of the Committee and is contained in this report. Subject to Committee believing this to be a fair and reasonable assessment of the current position the following main themes for improvement have been identified:

**Improvement Identified:** An annual report and evaluation should be published to Council on how the Audit Committee has complied with its responsibilities, including any key issues to be highlighted to Council, any development work undertaken and planned improvement.

**To be addressed by:** An annual report for 2024/25 will be presented at year end to Council from the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee.

**Improvement Identified:** Annual evaluation of the work of the Committee.

**To be addressed by:** To be covered in the annual report.

**Improvement Identified:** Independent Members of the Committee.

**To be addressed by:** Council have approved the appointment of two independent members, interviews for prospective candidates scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**Improvement Identified:** Committee to meet independently with Audit without officers being present.

**To be addressed by:** This will be arranged before year end and moving forward every 6 months.

**Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

**Recommendation:**

To consider the draft Self-Assessment of good practice and consider if it is a reasonable assessment of where the Committee currently is and if the improvement areas and actions identified are appropriate.

**Reason for recommendation:**

To ensure the Council's Audit & Governance Committee is complying with best practice.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Climate Action and Emergency Response
- ☐ Coast, Country and Environment
- ☒ Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Economy
- ☒ Finance and Assets
- ☐ Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk;

**Links to background information** [CIPFA Audit Committee Position Statement](#)

**Link to** [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ A supported and engaged community
- ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- ☐ Resilient economy that supports local business
- ☒ Financially secure and improving quality of services

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**Financial implications:**

No direct financial implications

**Legal implications:**

The undertaking of this self assessment and the proposed recommendations ensure that the Committee is fully compliant with best practice.