

Full Council 26th January 2023

Report Title	Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2022
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Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2022

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide an overview of the work completed by the Audit and Governance Committee, which covers the 18-month period, from the commencement of North Northamptonshire Council on 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2022.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Annual Report highlights the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2021/22 and to September 2022, which is contained in **Appendix A**.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Full Council: -

- (i) note the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2022, as attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations

- (i) To ensure that all Members are informed of the work of the Audit and Governance Committee and to comply with the Committee's Terms of

Reference. It is also considered good practice for the Audit and Governance Committee to provide an Annual Report.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) sets out the role of Audit Committees in their Practical Guidance for Local Authorities 2018. This states that “the purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide to those charged with governance independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance processes.”
- 4.2 The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations impose a responsibility on a local authority “for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body’s functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.”
- 4.3 The Audit and Governance Committee’s Terms of Reference state: “The Audit and Governance Committee will carry out an annual self-assessment, including a review of these terms of reference, to evaluate its own performance and determine any action required to improve its effectiveness.” The key findings of the assessment are reflected upon in the Annual Report.
- 4.4 The Annual Report reflects upon the work of the Committee against its core functions during the 18-month period from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2022.
- 4.5 The Annual Report was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting held on 28 November 2022 and recommended that the Annual Report be submitted to Full Council, as per the Committee’s Terms of Reference.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 This report shows the work carried out by the Audit and Governance Committee and ensures that all members are provided with information in relation to the work of the Audit and Governance Committee. The recommended approach is in line with the Committee’s Terms of Reference and best practice guidance.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 None specific to this report.

6.2 Legal & Governance

- 6.2.1 None specific to this report.

6.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 6.3.1 Not applicable.

6.4 Risk

6.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendation. The purpose of the Audit and Governance Committee is to provide independent assurance as to the Council's governance, risk management framework and associated control environment.

6.5 Consultation

6.5.1 The Annual Report has been reported to the Audit and Governance Committee prior to being presented to Full Council.

6.6 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.6.1 Not required on this occasion.

6.7 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

6.7.1 Not applicable.

6.8 Equality Implications

6.8.1 None.

6.9 Climate Impact

6.9.1 None specific to this report.

6.10 Community Impact

6.10.1 None specific to this report.

6.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

6.11.1 None specific to this report.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Council Constitution Part 4.5 – Audit and Governance Committee.