



GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date Written	16 th February 2024
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Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	26 th February 2024

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Governance and Audit Committee Members with the Forward Work Programme for 2023/24.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

2.1 That Members approve the Forward Work Programme for 2023/24.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 The core functions of an effective Governance and Audit Committee include the responsibility to:

- consider the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting, governance processes, performance assessment and complaints arrangements.
- seek assurances that action is being taken on risk-related issues identified by auditors and inspectors. Consider the effectiveness of the Council's anti-fraud and corruption arrangements.
- be satisfied that the Council's assurance statements properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.
- oversee the work of internal audit (including the annual plan and strategy) and monitor performance.

- review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- receive the annual report of the Head of Audit.
- consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies, where applicable.
- ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
- review and approve the financial statements, external auditor’s opinion and reports to Members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.

3.2 Effective Governance and Audit Committees help to raise the profile of governance, internal control, risk management and financial reporting issues within an organisation, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of issues raised by internal and external auditors. They enhance public trust and confidence in the financial governance of an authority.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to assist the Committee in ensuring that due consideration is given to all aspects of their core functions the proposed Forward Work Programme for 2023/24 is attached at **Appendix A**. Committee Members are asked to endorse this schedule, confirm the list of people they would like to invite for each item (if appropriate), and indicate whether any additional information or research is required.

4.2 Shown below are the items scheduled to be presented at the Committee’s next scheduled meeting on 15th April 2024.

Proposed Agenda Items – 15th April 2024	
1	Quarterly Update on Corporate Risks – QTR 3
2	Rolling Programme Corporate Risk Update – Homelessness
3	Annual Governance Statement – 6 monthly update
4	Ombudsman Complaints Report
5	External Audit Recommendations
6	Audit Wales Outline Audit Plan 2024
7	Governance and Audit Committee Self-Assessment against the CIPFA Checklist
8	Committee Forward Work Programme
9	Internal Audit Information Reports

4.3 There may be additional agenda items presented to the Committee throughout the year, and these will be added to the Forward Work Programme as necessary.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

ANDREW WATHAN
HEAD OF THE REGIONAL AUDIT
SERVICE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Various	Various	Audit Service / MK Insight
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No