

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee held a meeting on 22 March 2018 and considered the following items of business.

1. Corporate Risk Management

- 1.1 The Committee noted and accepted the update on the Corporate Risk Register and recommended it to Cabinet as an accurate reflection of the current corporate risks affecting the Council.

2. Review of Procurement Strategy and update

- 2.1 The Committee received an update on the annual review of the Procurement Strategy and the actions and processes required to comply with contract standing orders and public contract regulations.

3. Recruitment and Retention update

- 3.1 The Committee noted an update on action taken to recruit or retain staff in departments where difficulties had been experienced with these issues, and also progress made in the provision of apprenticeships. The Committee requested a further update for their November 2018 meeting.

4. Partnerships update

- 4.1 The Committee were provided with a report and list of partnerships currently in place.

5. Code of Corporate Governance update

- 5.1 Terry Collier, Deputy Chief Executive, reported on the changes made to the Code and its approval by Cabinet on 5 March 2018.

6. Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing Policy)

- 6.1 The Committee noted and approved the Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing Policy) and leaflet.
- 6.2 The Code remained unchanged but the leaflet that is placed on internal notice boards had been updated.

7. Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy

- 7.1 The Committee noted and accepted the changes to the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy and recommended it to Cabinet.

8. Annual Audit Plan

- 8.1 The Committee noted the Internal Audit Plan 2018-19 which demonstrated how the authority would fulfil its statutory requirement to 'maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper internal audit practices.'

9. Committee Work Programme

- 9.1 The Committee Work Programme for 2018-19 was approved subject to one amendment, namely that the Annual Governance Statement is considered at its July meeting as it forms part of the Statement of Accounts.

Councillor M.J. Madams

Chairman of the Audit Committee

26 April 2018