

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee held a meeting on 23 March 2023 and the main items of business considered were as follows:

1. KPMG 2017/18 Audit Opinion

- 1.1 The Committee resolved to accept the ISA 260 report from KPMG and to accept the opinions on the Statement of Accounts and Value for Money, and that the Chair of the Audit Committee and Chief Finance Officer would sign the accounts and the letter of representation.

2. Public Interest Report Recommendations Action Plan

- 2.1 The Committee noted and agreed the Public Interest Report Recommendations Action Plan and agreed that a Public Interest Report Action Plan be brought before the July meeting of the Audit Committee.

3. Report on DLUHC's Review of Councils with High Debt Levels

- 3.1 The Committee resolved to receive and note the verbal update on DLUHC's review of Councils with high debt levels, and to place the DLUHC Review on the forward plan for the July meeting of the Audit Committee.

4. Corporate Risk Management

- 4.1 The Committee noted the significant strategic risks and issues highlighted in the report.
- 4.2 The Committee recommended that the Corporate Risk Register and Risk Action Plan be presented to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.
- 4.3 The Committee noted the discussion in relation to hybrid working and resolved to add hybrid and flexible working to risk category 7 of the Corporate Risk Register.

5. The Council's Risk Exposure to Wider Externalities and Impact

- 5.1 The Committee noted the report and the close linkages and common themes between this report and the Corporate Risk Management report, and agreed the reports should be combined.

6. Internal Audit Annual Plan 2023/24

- 6.1 The Committee noted and approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24.

7. Counter Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy

- 7.1 The Committee resolved to endorse the Council's Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy, and approved the submission of the recommended changes to the Strategy to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Helen Harvey

Chairman of the Audit Committee

20 April 2023