

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 July 2018
Subject:	Audit Committee Annual Report 2017/18
Report of:	Graeme Simpson, Head of Corporate Services
Corporate Lead:	Mike Dawson, Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Cllr E J MacTiernan, Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

The Audit Committee plays a key role in assisting the Council to fulfil its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control systems, risk management systems and the internal and external audit functions.

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the Council's risk management, governance and internal control environment arrangements. This includes the independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance, to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment and to oversee the financial reporting process.

Reporting the work of the Audit Committee through an annual report provides an opportunity for both the Council and the public to view the work of the Committee.

Recommendation:

To APPROVE the Audit Committee Annual Report 2017/18.

Reasons for Recommendation:

An annual report helps to increase the profile of the Committee and, by summarising the work of the Committee, provides assurance that it is fulfilling its Terms of Reference. It is important to ensure that the work of the Audit Committee and the assurance it provides as to how well certain aspects of the Council is performing is reported beyond the Committee itself.

Resource Implications:

None.

Legal Implications:

None.

Risk Management Implications:

The production of an annual report helps to demonstrate the effectiveness of the committee and minimise the risk it is not fulfilling its approved terms of reference.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Annual review of the work of the committee provides transparency and accountability and increases the profile of the committee. The annual report will also be presented at full Council by the Chair of Audit Committee.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Audit Committee must deliver the work required of it as set out in the Council's Constitution. The Committee undertakes an assurance role to ensure the Council's risk, governance and internal control environment is operating effectively. The Committee has a formal work programme for the year and this programme ensures there is adequate coverage of the Council's activities to fulfil the assurance role.

2.0 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

- 2.1 The production of an annual report is good practice and helps demonstrate the broad coverage of activities that the Committee has been informed of, reviewed and challenged during the year. It was also an agreed action arising from an Audit Committee Workshop that the production of an annual report would help increase the profile of the Committee. The coverage of the work undertaken has been achieved through a combination of the following:

- Internal Audit monitoring reports.
- Annual Governance Statement.
- Financial reporting including the presentation and approval of the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- Gloucestershire Counter Fraud Unit reports.
- External Audit monitoring reports.
- Reports on key governance frameworks e.g. safeguarding and Health and Safety.
- Internal Audit operational reports e.g. Internal Audit Charter, Internal Audit Peer Review

- 2.2 Following approval of the annual report it will be presented by the Chair of Audit Committee at Council on 18 September 2018. The 2017/18 annual report can be found in Appendix 1.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 None

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 None

5.0	RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES
5.1	None
6.0	RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES
6.1	None
7.0	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)
7.1	None
8.0	SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)
8.1	None
10.0	IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)
10.1	None
11.0	RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS
11.1	None

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Audit Committee Annual Report 2017/18