

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2021
Subject:	Audit and Governance Committee - Annual Report 2020/21
Report of:	Chief Audit Executive (Head of Corporate Services)
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

The role of the Audit and Governance Committee is to obtain independent assurance of the adequacy of the Council's risk management, governance and internal control arrangements. Reporting the work of the Committee through an annual report provides an opportunity for both the Council and the public to view the work of the Committee and demonstrate it is delivering its Terms of Reference.

Recommendation:

To APPROVE the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2020/21.

Reasons for Recommendation:

It is within the Terms of Reference of the Committee to produce an annual report. An annual report also helps increase the profile of the Committee. It is important to ensure that the work of the 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 Council by the Chair of the Committee.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 The Audit and Governance 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 AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2.1 The production of an annual report is also good practice and helps demonstrate the broad coverage of activities that the Committee has been informed of, reviewed and challenged during the year. The 2020/21 report includes reference to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Committee and the services which report into it. Included within the report is reference to:

- The deployment of the Internal Audit team to support the Business Cell.
- Financial reporting, including the presentation and approval of the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- Annual Governance Statement.
- Overview of the work of the Gloucestershire Counter Fraud Unit.
- Overview of the work of Grant Thornton (external auditors).
- Safeguarding arrangements.
- Outcome of a Food Standards Agency audit.
- Serious and Organised Crime framework.

2.2 Following approval of the report it will be presented to Council by the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. The 2020/21 annual report can be found at 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

Contact Officer: Head of Corporate Services
01684 272002 graeme.simpson@teWKesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: 1 – Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2020/21