



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Lesley McKay, Chairman of the Audit Committee and Clare James, Head of Finance	Council	14 November 2019

Audit Committee: Periodic Report

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform the Council of the current position on issues being dealt with by the Audit Committee.

2. Audit Committee Meetings

- 2.1** Since the last Periodic Report, which was discussed at the Council meeting on 6 September 2018, the Audit Committee has met five times. A link to the website for further details on the reports and minutes is included here:

<https://wyre.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=149&Year=0>

- 2.2** In summary, the following issues have been considered by the Committee:

At the 13 November 2018 meeting:

- Annual Review of Audit Committee's Performance
- Internal Audit and Risk Management – Progress Report
- Annual Review of the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules
- Annual Review of Council's Counter Fraud Policies – Anti Fraud, Corruption and Bribery, Whistle Blowing, Anti Money Laundering, Gifts and Hospitality and Registering Interests
- Annual Audit Letter from the Council's External Auditors in relation to 2017/18
- Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim Audit 2016/17 Update

At the 12 March 2019 meeting:

- Review of Audit Committee's Terms of Reference
- Internal Audit Strategy and Audit Plan 2019/20
- Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report 2017/18
- External Audit Plan 2018/19
- Periodic Private Discussion with Chief Internal Auditor

At the 28 May 2019 meeting:

- Election of Chairman
- Election of Vice Chairman
- Annual review of Internal Audit Charter
- Review of effectiveness of Internal Audit
- Internal Audit Annual Report 2018/19
- External Audit annual audit fee 2019/20

At the 18 June 2019 meeting:

- Marine Hall Audit – verbal update
- Training in advance of the Committee considering the draft Statement of Accounts 2018/19
- Risk Management Policy: Annual Review
- Annual Governance Statement of Assurance from the previous Committee
- Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
- Periodic Private Discussion with the External Auditor, Deloitte

At the 30 July 2019 meeting:

- Statement of Accounts 2018/19 (Post Audit)
- Management Representation Letter 2018/19
- Report to those charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2018/19

2.3 The next Audit Committee meeting is arranged for 19 November 2019, when we will be considering:

- Marine Hall Audit - update
- Internal Audit and Risk Management – Progress Report (including AGS Action Plan update)
- Annual Review of the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules
- Annual Review of Council's Counter Fraud Policies – Anti Fraud, Corruption and Bribery, Whistle Blowing, Anti Money Laundering, Gifts and Hospitality and Registering Interests
- Annual Audit Letter from the Council's External Auditors in relation to 2018/19
- Compliance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) 2000

- Data Protection Policy and Procedures

3. Key Activities

- 3.1** The three main documents considered by the Audit Committee annually are the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), the Statement of Accounts (SOA) and the Report to those charged with Governance (ISA 260). Each one has been considered in detail by the Committee in line with statutory deadlines.
- 3.2** With regard to the AGS, there were no significant governance issues which needed to be identified in the statement for 2018/19. Good progress is being made on the list of ongoing actions set out in the Action Plan included in the Statement. Regular reviews will continue to be made throughout the year.
- 3.3** The SOA (post audit) was approved by Audit Committee on the 30 July 2019 in compliance with new, earlier, statutory deadlines introduced last year. In the external auditor's ISA 260 report, Deloitte "did not identify any significant audit risks and have identified no significant concerns regarding the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness" and issued an unqualified Value for Money opinion. Three low priority areas for improvement were identified, relating to the IT environment and asset valuations and a management response agreed.

4. Comments and Questions

- 4.1** In accordance with Procedure Rule 13.4, any Member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rules 13.6.