



## Council

<b>Title</b>	Referral from Governance, Audit and Risk-Management and Standards Committee - Annual Report of the Audit Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	11th July 2023
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Governance, Audit and Risk-Management and Standards Committee
<b>Wards</b>	N/A
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A- Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2022/23
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Clair Green, Executive Director of Assurance clair.green@barnet.gov.uk

### Summary

In accordance with the Council Constitution, Part 2B - Terms of Reference and Delegation of Duties to Committees and Sub-Committees, the Governance, Audit and Risk-Management and Standards Committee states that the Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on annual basis on its activity and effectiveness.

### Recommendations

- 1. That Council to note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2022/23 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.**

#### 1. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 1.1 The Council's role in receiving this report is to note the outcomes from the Audit Committee's work programme for the year.
- 1.2 Prior to Annual Council on 23rd May 2023, the Council had a Committee system in place, one of which was the Audit Committee. Following the move to the Executive arrangements, the Audit Committee has ceased to exist and has been replaced by the Governance, Audit and Risk-Management and Standards Committee

- 1.3 For the Council to receive the Annual Audit report in a timely manner, this report has been submitted to Council for noting and to approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year 2022/23 as appended to this report.
- 1.4 Due to the scheduling of meetings, this report should ordinarily be approved by the Governance, Audit and Risk Management and Standards Committee (GARMS), prior to approval at Council. However, the GARMS Committee is not due to meet until the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- 1.5 Should there be any substantial amendments made to the Annual Report by the GARMS Committee on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, all Members will be notified on this via email by the Head of Internal Audit for information.

## **2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended**

- 2.1 No alternative options can be considered.

## **3. Post Decision Implementation**

- 3.1 The Annual Report of the Audit Committee will be presented to the first meeting of the new Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## **4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations**

### **Corporate Plan**

- 4.1 Our Plan for Barnet (the corporate plan 2023 -2026) was adopted in March 2023.
- 4.2 The activity of the Audit Committee is aligned with the Council's objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2023-2026, and thus supports the delivery of those objectives by giving independent oversight on the effectiveness of the management of the risks associated with delivery of the Council's services.

### **Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures**

- 4.3 None in the context of this decision.

### **Sustainability**

- 4.4 None in the context of this decision.

### **Corporate Parenting**

- 4.5 None in the context of this decision.

### **Risk Management**

- 4.6 All Internal Audit activity presented to the Audit Committee is directed toward giving assurance about risk management within the areas examined. By so doing the aim is to help maximise the achievement of the Council's objectives. Internal Audit does this by identifying areas for improvement and agreeing actions to address the weaknesses.

4.7	Internal and External Audit work contributes to increasing awareness and understanding of risk and controls amongst managers and thus leads to improving management processes for securing more effective risk management.
	<b>Insight</b>
	None in the context of this decision
	<b>Social Value</b>
	None in the context of this decision
<b>5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)</b>	
5.1	None in the context of this decision
<b>6. Legal Implications and Constitution References</b>	
6.1	The Council Constitution, Part 2B - Terms of Reference and Delegation of Duties to Committees and Sub-Committees, the Governance, Audit and Risk-Management and Standards Committee states that the Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on annual basis on its activity and effectiveness.
<b>7. Consultation</b>	
7.1	Not applicable
<b>8. Equalities and Diversity</b>	
8.1	Effective systems of audit, internal control and corporate governance provide assurance on the effective allocation of resources and quality of service provision for the benefit of the entire community. Individual audits assess, as appropriate, the differential aspects on different groups of individuals to ensure compliance with the Council's duties under the 2010 Equality Act.
<b>9. Background Papers</b>	
9.1	None