

**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 3 JULY 2023**

**REPORT TITLE: AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

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SECTION 73 OFFICER**

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### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 The purpose of the Annual Report 2022/23 is to bring together in one document a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. The production of the report complies with current best practice for audit committees. It allows the Audit Committee to demonstrate it has fulfilled its terms of reference and share its achievements with the main CA Committee and is thought useful as a reminder to the organisation of the role of the committee in providing assurance about its governance, risk management, financial and business controls.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance to local authorities to help ensure that Audit Committees operate effectively. The guidance recommends that Audit Committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities. A copy of the annual report of this Audit Committee is attached. A copy of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference is included for information.

### **Recommendation**

- Review and Comment on the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23.

## **Background / Issues for Consideration**

- 2 The Audit Committee is a key component of corporate governance and provides an important source of assurance about the organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance. The Committee is also responsible for approving the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement.

The specific work undertaken by the Committee is set out in the Annual report.

## **Consultation**

- 3 Relevant officers and the Audit Committee were consulted in producing the Annual Audit Report.

## **Other Options Considered**

- 4 This report is presented to enable the Audit Committee to fulfil its responsibility for reporting on how they have discharged their duties.

## **Risk Management/Assessment**

- 5 The Audit Committee aims to comply with standards established by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The production of the Annual Report is consistent with the CIPFA standards.

## **Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 6 There are no direct Equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Climate Change Implications**

- 7 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

## **Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:**

- 8 There are no Financial Issues arising from this report.

## **Legal Implications:**

- 9 There are no direct Legal Implications associated with this report.

## **Human Resources Implications:**

- 10 There are no Human Resources implications arising from the report.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23

**Background papers:**

Audit Committee Terms of Reference – West of England CA Constitution.

Relevant reports presented to the Audit Committee and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee.