

SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	AMANDA STANISLAWSKI, AUDIT MANAGER JACLYN GIBSON, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To review the effectiveness of the Audit Committee against the CIPFA guidance on Audit Committees 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 The report provides an update on the progress and next steps of the assessment of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee against the recent guidance issued by CIPFA in October 2022. The previous review was carried out in June 2021
- 2.2 The results of the review and progress on the actions is fed into the Annual Report and the Annual Governance Statement.

3. Audit Committee Effectiveness Review

- 3.1 An initial review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee has been carried out by the Chief Finance Officer and the Audit Manager. As part of the CIPFA guidance on good practice for Audit Committees, CIPFA produced a set of evaluation tools for use in assessing the effectiveness of the Audit Committee. These were used when making our assessment.
- 3.2 The results of the initial review were circulated to the Audit Committee Chair, Vice Chair, Leader of the Opposition and the Independent Member for comment.
- 3.3 The next stage in the process is to hold a roundtable discussion with a group of the Audit Committee Members to feed into the final review document. The group should contain the Chair of the Committee and at least one member from the non-controlling groups.

4. Strategic Priorities

Ensuring that the Council has effective arrangements in place for it's Internal Audit Services and Audit Committee is a key part of the Council's overall governance framework.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The review of effectiveness ensures best practice is met and compliance with the Accounts and Audit regulations.

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

Due to the nature of this report there are no direct equality, diversity or human rights implications.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 Committee select a group of four Members to attend a roundtable discussion week commencing 8th January 2024 to finalise the document for presentation at the January Audit Committee. The group should contain the Chair of the Committee and at least one member from the non-controlling groups.

Is this a key decision?	No
Do the exempt information categories apply?	No
Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?	No
How many appendices does the report contain?	None
List of Background Papers:	None

Lead Officer:

Amanda Stanislawski, Audit Manager
Email: Amanda.stanislawski@lincoln.gov.uk