
Annual Report – Governance and Ethics Committee

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	10 May 2022
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Howard Woollaston
Report Author:	Joseph Holmes
Forward Plan Ref:	C4152

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is annual summary of the activities of the Governance & Ethics Committee for 2021-22 (excluding the April 2022 Governance & Ethics Committee meeting). The report is intended for Full Council to provide a summary of key areas that the Committee has considered during the Municipal Year 2021-22 as well as some of the actions and changes that have occurred due to the Committee’s activities.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 For Governance & Committee to comment on, amend and approve the report for Full Council
- 2.2 For Full Council to note the report

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	None
Human Resource:	None
Legal:	None
Risk Management:	Included within the activity of the Governance & Ethics Committee

Property:	None			
Policy:	This report supports the overall CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		None required – this is a summary report of other reports which will have had EIAs considered as part of their reports to the Committee.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		See above
Environmental Impact:		X		None
Health Impact:		X		None
ICT Impact:		X		None
Digital Services Impact:		X		None
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		None

Core Business:	X			New report highlighting the work of the committee and its contribution to good governance.
Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	Officers of the Finance And Governance Group Corporate Board			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 This report is annual summary of the activities of the Governance & Ethics Committee for 2021-22 (excluding the April 2022 Governance & Ethics Committee meeting). The report is intended for Full Council to provide a summary of key areas that the Committee has considered during the Municipal Year 2021-22 as well as some of the actions and changes that have occurred due to the Committee’s activities.
- 4.2 As well as the summary included in the supporting information below, the Committee also has oversight of Standards issues and this report needs to be read in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer’s report for 2021-22.
- 4.3 The Committee also approved that an independent person becomes a member of the committee (with no voting rights) to support and advise the committee as a non-Council member. Recruitment has commenced at the time of writing this report (March 2022).
- 4.4 Members also had training on key areas of the remit of the Committee during the Municipal Year.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 The summary below highlights the key items that have come to the Committee over the previous year and what action was taken as a result of these. The summary is of the themes and individual reports highlighted alongside commentary on the action taken.

Summary table

Theme	Summary of reports	Actions
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Internal Audit	Regular update reports provided for the committee to highlight progress during the 2021-22 financial year. Progress overall has highlighted relatively high numbers of positive reports	The committee commented upon and noted the reports.
Financial statements	Draft financial statements highlight report, going concern and Annual Governance Statement all presented for approval in line with statutory deadlines.	Approved for external audit review.
External Audit	Appointment process for External Audit to be undertaken via the PSAA (Public Sector Audit Appointments) Audit Plan for 2020-21 provided after the commencement of the 2020-21 external audit, the external audit report for 2020-21 remains outstanding. WBC provided financial statements for audit within statutory timeframes.	Approved and recommended to Full Council (where decision was approved) Audit plan approved
Treasury Management	Mid-year report taken to Jan. 22 meeting; first item on this area since the inclusion of Treasury Management within the G&E committee remit.	Report noted
Constitution Review	Updates to the budget discussion and a separate March Full Council meeting Delegations to the licensing Committee	Approved and recommended to Full Council (where decision was approved) Approved to move to the licensing committee
Risk Management	Q2 Risk management report considered (in part II) by the committee	Report noted by the committee.

	Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2024 (including Risk Appetite and risk management objectives) considered by the committee	The Governance and Ethic Committee endorsed the Risk Management Strategy and the associated risk appetite
Member access request	Specific request for information – report highlighted request for information and this comes to the G&E committee as part of the Council's constitution	Referred to Full Council (17.3.22)

6 Other options considered

There is the option to have no annual report of the work of the Governance and Ethics Committee though this has been rejected on the basis that it is important there is a summary of the Committee's work during the year.

7 Conclusion

The Committee have considered a variety of reports as well as approving reports for Full Council to consider.

8 Appendices

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All

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