

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE
11 JUNE 2025

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR: RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

COUNCIL PRIORITY: SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To consider the Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the 2024/25 Civic Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Committee consider and comment on the Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as attached at Appendix A, particularly in relation to feedback on how the Committee operated during 2024/25
- 2.2. That the Committee delegate to the Director – Resources, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, to make any changes to Appendix A arising from discussion of this report.

That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee recommend to Full Council that:

- 2.3. The Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee be noted.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To enable the Committee to consider the report before it is presented to Full Council. To provide Full Council with assurance as to the effectiveness of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. None, the constitution requires an Annual Report to be provided to Council.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. The Chair of the Committee (who was also Chair during 204/25) has been consulted on the content of the report.

- 5.2. The current Members of the Committee have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the Report before it is presented to Full Council.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. The Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reports to Full Council each year providing an overview of the work that has been done over the previous Civic Year. It also provides a summary of the work planned for the forthcoming year.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Annual Report for 2024-25 is attached at Appendix A. The Annual Report is intended to provide Full Council with assurance as to the effectiveness of the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee.
- 8.2 It is best practice for the Committee to consider its effectiveness, and this is reflected in the Annual Report. This Committee meeting is an opportunity for further discussion on this, and for further reflections to be included in the report to Full Council.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Constitution (4.4.1 (ee)) states that Full Council will receive an Annual Report from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Providing Full Council with assurance over the effectiveness of the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee gives confidence that the areas of its work (including commenting on processes and assumptions on financial management) are being managed effectively.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. Providing Full Council with assurance over the effectiveness of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee gives confidence that the areas of its work (including oversight of risk) are being managed effectively.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2024-25.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 Reports to and minutes of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee during the Civic Year 2024-25