COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 16 JULY 2026

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report

REPORT OF: Director - Resources

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Non-Executive

COUNCIL PRIORITY: All Priorities;

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Report (attached at Appendix A) details the work undertaken by the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee over the last year (25/26) and describes the planned work for the coming year (26/27).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Council note the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. 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 that an Annual Report is provided to Full Council.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1. Members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee are consulted on the content of the report, prior to it being presented to 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 the FAR Committee presents this report to Council each year, which describes the work of the FAR Committee from the previous civic year (2025/26) and what is planned for the forthcoming civic year (2026/27).

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1. The Annual Report is attached at Appendix A. The Annual Report is intended to provide Full Council with assurance as to the effectiveness of the FAR Committee. The role of the FAR Committee is to support and promote good governance.

8.2. It is best practice for the FAR Committee to consider its effectiveness, and this is reflected in the Annual Report. Commenting on the report provides a further opportunity for that self-review of effectiveness.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. The Constitution (paragraph 4.4.1 ee) states that Full Council will receive an Annual Report from FAR.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Providing Full Council with assurance over the effectiveness of the 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. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

11.2. Providing Full Council with assurance over the effectiveness of the FAR 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 HR impacts arising from this report.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 *Appendix A, FAR Annual Report 2025/26*

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 *None*