



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Council

Thursday, 23 May 2024

Report of Councillor Tim Harrison
Chairman of Governance and Audit
Committee

Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To present the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2023/24 for Council including the indicative work plan and timetable for 2024/25.

Recommendation

That Council approves the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2023/24 and approves the indicative work plan and timetable for 2024/25.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Effective council

Which wards are impacted?

All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no specific finance or procurement implications arising from this report.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no specific legal and governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 Audit Committees are an important source of assurance in respect of an organisation's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective internal control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance.
- 2.2 CIPFA recommend that Audit Committees produce an Annual Report to promote the role and purpose of the Committee, account for the Committee's performance, evaluate whether the Committee is continuing to meet its terms of reference and document how the Committee adds value. The Governance and Audit Committee's Annual Report fulfilling these requirements is set out at Appendix A.
- 2.3 The purpose of this report is to advise Council of key outcomes arising from the work of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2023/24 and to approve the indicative work plan and timetable for 2024/25 as set out within Appendix 2 of Appendix A.
- 2.4 The Committee's work is key to delivering good governance throughout the authority. It provides independent assurance and challenge on the effectiveness of the Council's overall arrangements for corporate governance and internal control, including risk management. It is good practice to publicise the work of the Committee to ensure a greater understanding of governance and audit issues. It is also important for the Committee to demonstrate the impact of its work to Members, partners, stakeholders and the wider community.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Council is asked to approve the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report for 2023/24 and approve the indicative work plan and timetable for 2024/25.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 No other options are considered other than to approve the report.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 To ensure Council is informed of the work activities of the Governance and Audit Committee.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24 (including Appendix 1: Governance and Audit Committee Summary of Work Plan 2023/24 and Appendix 2: Governance and Audit Committee Indicative Work Plan 2024/25)