

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Audit &amp; Governance Committee Annual Report 2023/24</b>
Meeting date	25 July 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Good governance is ultimately the responsibility of Council as the governing body of BCP Council.</p> <p>This report provides assurance as to the way in which the Audit &amp; Governance Committee has discharged its role to support Council in this responsibility. In addition, the report underpins the Annual Governance Statement, which is approved by the committee.</p> <p>The attached report at Appendix A, Annual Report of the Audit &amp; Governance Committee 2023/24, demonstrates how the committee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fulfilled its terms of reference;</li><li>• Complied with national guidance relating to audit committees; and</li><li>• Contributed to strengthening risk management, internal control and governance arrangements in BCP Council.</li></ul>
Recommendations	<b>It is RECOMMENDED that the Audit &amp; Governance Committee consider and approve the annual report prior to its submission to Council on 15 October 2024.</b>
Reason for recommendations	To demonstrate how the Audit & Governance Committee has fulfilled its terms of reference, complied with national guidance relating to audit committees, and contributed to strengthening risk management, internal control and governance arrangements in BCP Council.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mike Cox, Portfolio Holder for Finance
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	<p>Nigel Stannard Head of Audit &amp; Management Assurance ☎01202 128784 ✉ <a href="mailto:nigel.stannard@bcpcouncil.gov.uk">nigel.stannard@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</a></p>
Wards	Council-wide

Classification	For Recommendation Decision
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## **Background**

1. Good practice suggests that an annual report to Council is produced to demonstrate importance the Council places on good governance arrangements.
2. Good governance is ultimately the responsibility of Council as the governing body of BCP Council. This report provides assurance as to the way in which the Audit & Governance Committee has discharged its role to support Council in this responsibility. In addition, the report underpins the Annual Governance Statement, which is approved by the committee.

## **Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report 2023/24**

3. The attached report at Appendix A, Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2023/24, demonstrates how the committee has:
  - Fulfilled its terms of reference;
  - Complied with national guidance relating to audit committees;
  - Contributed to strengthening risk management, internal control and governance arrangements in BCP Council.
4. The report is split into the following areas:
  - Foreword by Councillor Marcus Andrews
  - Introduction
  - The Audit & Governance Committee Information
  - Committee Business – The Work & Activity of the Committee
  - Looking Forward
5. The report also includes the Terms of Reference for the Audit & Governance Committee for reference at Appendix 1.

## **Options Appraisal**

6. An options appraisal is not applicable for this report.

## **Summary of financial implications**

7. There are no direct financial implications from this report.

## **Summary of legal implications**

8. There are no direct legal implications from this report.

## **Summary of human resources implications**

9. There are no direct human resource implications from this report.

## **Summary of sustainability impact**

10. There are no direct sustainability impact implications from this report.

**Summary of public health implications**

11. There are no public health implications from this report.

**Summary of equality implications**

12. There are no direct equality implications from this report.

**Summary of risk assessment**

13. There are no direct risk implications from this report.

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2023/24