

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2025/26
Meeting date	30 July 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	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. The attached report at Appendix A, Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2025/26, demonstrates how the 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.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that the Audit & Governance Committee consider and approve the annual report prior to its submission to Council on 13 October 2026.
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.
Corporate Director	Cllr Mike Cox, Portfolio Holder for Finance
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Classification	Not applicable

Background

1. Good practice suggests that an annual report to Council is produced to demonstrate the 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 2025/26

3. The attached report at Appendix A, the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2025/26, 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 Eleanor Connolly, the Committee Chairperson.
 - 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 A1.
6. An officer-lead self-assessment against CIPFA Audit Committee best practice has been undertaken which demonstrates a high level of compliance – see Appendix A2. An Action Plan is in place, which includes a full committee self-assessment, to be undertaken by the Committee itself in November 2026.

Options Appraisal

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

Summary of financial implications

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

Summary of legal implications

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

Summary of human resources implications

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

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

Summary of risk assessment

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

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2025/26, including:

- Appendix A1 – Audit & Governance Committee Terms of Reference
- Appendix A2 – CIPFA Self-Assessment