

Future Audit Committee Meetings
WDA/15/25

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Note the proposed arrangements for future Audit & Governance Committee meetings and commend them to the Authority for approval.

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Proposed Future meetings**WDA/15/25****Report of the Director of Finance****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To note proposed new working arrangements for the Audit & Governance Committee and for members to commend them to the Authority for approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Audit & Governance committee meets on an ad-hoc basis. Matters often dealt with by audit committees in other local authorities, such as reports from the Head of Internal Audit, are currently reported directly to the Authority.

3. Prosed Future Arrangements

- 3.1 It this considered appropriate for this committee to have an increased role in respect of the following:
- the Authority's statutory accounts and accounting policies;
 - internal audit and external audit matters
 - Treasury management activities
 - the Authority's and approach to risk management and its corporate risk register
 - Annual Governance Statement (AGS)
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed that meetings are held three times per year as follows
- A meeting in early January to facilitate the approval of the final Statutory Accounts (together with the External Auditor's report) for the previous year and approve the Treasury Management Strategy for the following year;
 - A meeting in June to consider draft Statutory Accounts, any Outturn reports and the AGS; and
 - A meeting in early November to consider mid-year reports and progress on governance matters.

- 3.3 Internal and external audit updates would be provided at each meeting.

Audit and Governance Committee**29th May 2024**

3.4 Suggested timings and agenda items are as follows.

1st week November	3rd week January	3rd week June
Treasury Management Mid Year review	Treasury Management Strategy Statement	Treasury Management Outturn Report
	Final Accounts (signed off version)	Final Accounts (published version)
External Audit update	External Audit Report	External Audit update (including Audit Plan for 2025-26)
AGS update		AGS
Risk Register		Risk Register
Internal Audit progress report	Internal Audit progress report	Internal Audit progress report
	Audit Plan for following year	
Specific Internal Audit reports if appropriate	Specific Internal Audit reports if appropriate	Specific Internal Audit reports if appropriate
Update Financial Robustness including Reserves	Any proposed changes to accounting policies or reserves etc	

3.5 The above is subject to review and an updated schedule together with revised terms of reference for this committee will be taken to the Authority for approval at its meeting on 27 June 2025.

4. Risk implications

4.1 The new arrangements will provide for an improved approach to risk management and increased scrutiny of governance matters including any concerns raised by internal and external audit.

5. HR Implications

5.1 There are no HR implications.

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no environmental implications.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications for this Audit Committee accepting the recommendation contained in this report. Any recommendation will be taken to the Authority meeting of 27 June 2025 for approval.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 Members are therefore requested to note the proposed arrangements for this committee and comment them for approval by the Authority.

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There are no background documents to this report in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972.