

# Cabinet



Date of meeting:	10 November 2022
Title of Report:	<b>Audit and Governance Committee – Chair’s Update</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Luggar
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Ross Jago, Head of Governance, Performance and Risk
Contact Email:	ross.jago@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AG-CI
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

In line with best practice, the Terms of Reference for this Committee state that a report of the work of the Committee should be submitted to Cabinet. The Audit and Governance Committee’s remit, as defined in the council’s constitution, has allowed the Members to develop an overview of the whole system of governance within the council.

A summary of the areas of responsibility which the Committee covers includes the following:

- Receiving and considering the content of reports from Internal Audit.
- Receiving and considering reports from the council’s External Auditor.
- Ensuring that management teams take appropriate actions to implement the recommendations contained in these reports.
- Receiving reports on risk management and governance issues.
- Having responsibility for ensuring that the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement present a fair and accurate position of the council.
- Having regard for the Annual Audit Letter provided by the council’s External Auditor.

In March 2022 the Committee conducted a self- assessment exercise against the CIPFA good practice guidance. Overall, the response from the Members in the exercise was positive and as a result of this the review the Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference were updated in line with CIPFA best practice.

The Committee has met three times this municipal year in July and September, the third meeting being an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the consultation on the Council’s election cycle. The Committee has also discussed –

- Disclosure and Barring Checks for Councillors
- Councillor Training and Development
- Risk Registers
- Internal and External Auditor Reports and Recommendations

- Counter Fraud Services.

As a result of recommendations that the Committee has made –

- A Councillor Training and Development steering group has been established to guide the work on a new Councillor Development Strategy.
- Risk reporting is now a regular feature on Scrutiny work programmes, this ensures risks identified and reviewed at the Audit and Governance Committee are subject to further scrutiny and assurance.
- The Consultation on Electoral Cycle has been agreed and a report prepared for publication for the 21 November 2022 Council meeting.
- A briefing on disclosure and barring checks has been arranged in November in advance of a further report to Audit and Governance Committee.

As the Cabinet and wider council grapples with the further tough decisions that will be required over the coming weeks and months, the Audit and Governance Committee will continue to provide an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

This will include consideration of the Auditor's 2020/21 and 2021/22 Annual Report on Plymouth City Council at the next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee. This will allow the Audit and Governance Committee to seek assurance that the council has in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### **Recommendations and Reasons**

Cabinet is recommended to note the report.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

There are no alternative options as the Chair is required to make this report under the committee terms of reference.

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

This reports identifies how the committees work programme is vital to the delivery of the Plymouth and Corporate Plan by enabling the Council to exercise the scrutiny and challenge of its governance, finance, risk and audit processes.

### **Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

None arising specifically from this report.

### **Financial Risks**

None arising specifically from this report.

### **Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

None arising specifically from this report.

### **Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

None arising specifically from this report.

**Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A								
B								

**Background papers:**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

Fin	pl.22 .23.2 62	Leg	EJ/38 851/7 .11.22 (1)	Mon Off	EJ/38 851/7 .11.22 (1)	HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 07/11/2022											
Chair approval: <i>Approved by email</i>											
Date approved: 07/11/2022											