

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	22 July 2025
Title of Report:	Armada Way Independent Learning Review – Audit and Governance Sub-Committee
Lead Strategic Director:	Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author:	Liz Bryant, Service Director for Legal (Monitoring Officer)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Following a Council resolution to establish a cross-party sub-committee, Audit and Governance Committee are now required establish and agree the Terms of Reference for the sub-committee along with membership. The sub-committee will oversee the implementation of the Armada Way Independent Learning Review Action Plan (the Action Plan) reporting progress to Audit and Governance Committee for onward reporting to full Council as required. The Action Plan is included at Appendix A.

The Council resolution, as amended by the Green Party was as follows:

That Council:

3. requests that the Audit and Governance Committee establish a cross-party sub committee to oversee the implementation of the action plan, to support public confidence in this process reporting back to Full Council on progress as required.

When agreeing the Terms of Reference, the Committee will need consider the recommendations relating to the membership of the sub-committee, the frequency of the meetings and whether the sub-committee will be a formally constituted meeting held in public. Given the timescales involved with administering a formal committee, meetings will need to be carefully timetabled around the deadlines set out in the Action Plan.

In addition, the Committee must formally confirm that it is disapplying political balance requirements to enable the sub-committee to be cross-party, as agreed by full Council.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Audit and Governance Committee establishes a cross-party sub-committee to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan presented to full council on 02 June 2025 in response to the Armada Independent Learning Review Report.

Reason: To comply with the decision taken at full Council on 02 June 2025

2. Agree the draft Terms of Reference for the sub-committee (Appendix B), in particular the following points:
 - a. that the membership consists of the existing committee, or substitutes provided by Group Leaders, plus one Green Party member;
 - b. that the sub-committee meets in accordance the timetable appended to the Terms of Reference;
 - c. that the sub-committee is formally constituted and meets the requirements of the Constitution in relation to notice and access to information requirements;
 - d. that the sub-committee meets in accordance with the timetable appended to the Terms of Reference.

Reason: To ensure the sub-committee is constituted in accordance with the full Council decision and has clear timescales for delivery.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. No alternative options were considered. The establishment of a sub-committee has been decided by full Council and delegated to Audit and Governance Committee to action.
2. The establishment of the committee as an informal sub-committee was considered but discounted for reasons of transparency, despite the greater flexibility this would have enabled.
3. Applying political balance to the sub-committee was considered but discounted due to the resolution of full council requiring the sub-committee to be cross-party.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The establishment of a cross-party sub-committee to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan supports the Corporate Plan by ensuring that it follows a democratic and co-operative process.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are no MTFP implications. The establishment of an additional committee will require existing officer resources to manage the running of the sub-committee.

Financial Risks

There are no financial risks.

Legal Implications

(Provided by LB)

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no direct carbon footprint implications arising from the creation of a sub-committee in itself.

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

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

There are no other implications

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	Armada Way ILR Action Plan							
B	Draft Sub-committee Terms of Reference							

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	OW. 25.26. 068	Leg	LS/00 0036 09/40 /17/0 7/25	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Liz Bryant											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 16/07/2025											

