

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead - Resources

Audit Committee: 18 November 2020

Subject: Annual Report on the Audit Committee – 2019/20

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide members with an Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2019/20.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that members:

- i) Review and endorse the Chair's Annual Report on the Audit Committee for 2019/20; and
- ii) Agree that the report should be presented to a future meeting of the Council.

3. Background

- 3.1** It is important that the Committee fully complies with best practice guidance on Audit Committees to ensure it can demonstrate its effectiveness as a foundation for sound corporate governance for the Council. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued an updated guidance note Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 Edition which incorporates CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police. This sets out CIPFA's view of the role and functions of an Audit Committee. The CIPFA Audit Committees Guidance includes the production of an annual report on the performance of the Audit Committee against its remit for submission to the Council.
- 3.2** The Audit and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019/20, which is attached at Appendix 1, provides assurance to the Council over the activity of the Audit Committee.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Audit Committee Annual Report for 2019/20 is appended with the main issues identified being:
- The Audit Committee has met three times during the financial year with every meeting being quorate;

- The Audit Committee sought assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's systems of corporate governance and internal control for efficient operations and for the highest standards of probity and accountability. This was achieved through reports received from internal audit, other Council functions and external audit with focus in particular on internal control and governance; and
- The Audit Committee has provided assurance to the Council as detailed in the appendix.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel issues with this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are neither financial nor procurement implications arising directly from this report.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 There is a risk that the Audit Committee does not comply with best practice guidance in relation to demonstrating its effectiveness in providing a foundation for sound corporate governance. The annual report provides this assurance to the Council on the activity of the Committee.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 There are no issues.

9. Consultation

9.1 This report has been subject to consultation with appropriate Strategic Leads. In addition, services have been consulted in the update of action plans.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 This report relates to strong corporate governance.

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Date: 18 November 2020

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Appendix: Annual Report on the Audit Committee 19/20

Background Papers: N/A

Wards Affected: All Wards