

**Council**16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**Agenda Item 24**

Brighton &amp; Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Standards Committee Annual Report 2014/15</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Council – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015</b> 23 June 2015	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Internal Audit</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Mark Dallen, Principal Audit Manager</b>	<b>Tel: 29-1314</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>mark.dallen@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This draft report attached at Appendix 1 provides a summary of the Audit & Standards Committee's work, performance and achievements during 2014/15. It has been prepared on behalf of the Audit & Standards Committee members.
- 1.2 The preparation of an annual report is recognised as best practice for Audit Committees by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in providing assurance to the Council over its role in governance.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Audit & Standards Committee:

- Consider the draft report at Appendix 1 and make any amendments and additions it deems necessary.
- Refer the report (incorporating any amendments and additions) to Full Council for information.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The current Audit & Standards Committee was formed in June 2012. Its purpose for the 2014/15 financial year is contained in the Terms of Reference, Appendix A to the Annual Report.
- 3.2 The key benefits of an effective Audit & Standards Committee are to;
  - review the council's governance and control arrangements and obtain assurance that recommendations to ensure improvement are being implemented

- ensure that the council's strategic risks are being managed effectively managed and assurance is obtained from risk owners
- support the work of Internal and External Audit
- ensure the council maintains and further improves the standards in relation to the production of accounts
- ensure the council effectively manages the risk of fraud and corruption
- promote and maintain high standards of conduct within the Council and monitoring the operations of the Council's Codes of Conduct and registers of interests
- support new and existing Members to fulfil responsibilities by providing training, briefings and good practice guidance.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 4.1 The Audit & Standards Committee is an essential element of good financial governance, the costs of its work programme including officer support and training is met from existing budgetary provision.

*Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld*

*Date: 01/06/15*

##### Legal Implications:

- 4.2 The annual report of the Standards Committee forms part of the corporate assurance framework and assists the Council in complying with its Code of Corporate Governance and draws to members attention the activities undertaken over the previous year. This report is for information and there are no legal implications arising from the report itself.

*Lawyer Consulted:*

*Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis*

*Date: 22/06/2015*

##### Equalities Implications:

- 4.3 There are no equalities implications arising.

##### Sustainability Implications:

- 4.4 There are no specific sustainability implications but the Committee may as required consider sustainability issues arising from internal audit and risk management work.

##### Any Other Significant Implications:

- 4.5 The Committee has a key role in relation to crime and disorder in ensuring the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption as it impacts on the council. It also has a key role in ensuring that the councils risk management arrangements operate effectively.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Audit & Standards Committee Annual Report - 2014/15