

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Audit and Governance Committee – 12 September 2022

Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference update

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager and Monitoring Officer

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update version of the Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 The reason for the update is to reflect changes recommended in the SWAP Baseline Fraud Maturity Report (also on the Audit and Governance Committee agenda on 12 September 2022).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee recommends to Council that the updated Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee are approved.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Failure to have an up to date Constitution could result in a negative opinion and recommendations arising from Internal and External Audits, as well as an action being included in the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee are asked to consider amendments to the Committee's Terms of Reference (Attached as Appendix A – proposed changes are in ***bold italics***).
- 4.2 The key changes are:
 - Adding in the Committee's responsibility for approving the Council's Annual Fraud Plan (as per the SWAP Baseline Fraud Report)
 - Adding in the Committee's responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the Council's performance against the Annual Fraud Plan – half yearly (as per the SWAP Baseline

Fraud Report)

- Reflecting that the Risk Management Strategy is now called the Risk and Opportunity Management Strategy
- Reflecting that the suite of Fraud Policies now includes the Anti-Money Laundering Policy

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

5.1 Having a robust governance framework and Constitution overarches everything that the Council does, including the delivery of the Corporate Strategy.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 None arising from this report

Unitary Council Financial Implications and S24 Direction Implications

6.2 None arising from this report

7 Legal Implications

7.1 None arising from this report

8 Climate, Ecology and Sustainability Implications

8.1 None arising from this report

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

9.1 None arising from this report

10 Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 None arising from this report

11 Social Value Implications

11.1 None arising from this report

12 Partnership Implications

12.1 None arising from this report

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications

13.1 None arising from this report

14 Asset Management Implications

14.1 None arising from this report

15 Data Protection Implications

15.1 None arising from this report

16 Consultation Implications

16.1 None arising from this report

Democratic Path:

- **Audit and Governance Committee – Yes, 12 September 2022**
- **Executive – No**
- **Full Council – Yes, Next meeting**

Reporting Frequency: Ad-hoc

List of Appendices (background papers to the report)

Appendix A	Audit & Governance Committee Terms of Reference
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