

East Herts Council Report

Audit and Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 March 2021

Report by: Chairman of Audit and Governance Committee

Report title: Audit and Governance Committee - Draft Work Programme 2020/21

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

- To invite Members to review and determine the future work programme of Audit and Governance Committee and any proposed amendments to the ongoing Work Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, that:

- (a) the main agenda items for the next meeting be agreed;**
- (b) the proposed consolidated work programme, at Appendix A, in relation to Audit and Governance matters, be agreed.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the work programme are set out in **Appendix A**. The Appendix is now presented as a consolidated report to include those issues for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was felt that consolidating the work of both Committees in one report would give Members of both committees a better perspective from the viewpoint of scrutiny.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The draft agenda for the next Audit and Governance Committee is shown in **Appendix A**. Members are asked to confirm that these are the key items they wish to consider.
- 2.2 Whilst the timing of some items shown may have to change depending on availability of essential data (eg. from central government), etc members are asked to consider the future programme and add, remove or move items as they see fit.
- 2.3 In an effort to better plan the work of both Audit and Governance and Overview and Scrutiny committees a meeting was held on 3 March 2021 with the Leader, the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Vice Chairman of Audit and Governance Committee. This meeting, to consider the work programmes of both Committees will be held on a quarterly basis and will also consider the items included in the Forward Plan. The aim of this is to provide a longer lead in time for consideration of key items for decision by the Executive and which may require scrutiny. Members should note that going the Forward Plan will contain items for decision over the next year.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 While Audit and Governance is not a Scrutiny Committee, it has a specific role of monitoring the budget and oversees a range of information such as inspection reports and action plan monitoring. It approves the Council's Statement of Accounts and is also the Council's Audit Committee and carries out Treasury Management functions. As a result, the work programme helps provide structure and identifies a clear reporting timeframe for those reports.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 Members have the option to include or exclude any items on

the proposed work programme, however, officers recommend approval of the listed items as consideration will fulfil the council's audit functions and the items reflect the issues previously raised by members. It is worth noting that this is a draft work programme which is continually reviewed and will evolve as the work programme develops triggered by external and internal influences.

5.0 Risks

5.1 If the Audit and Governance Committee chose not to consider the various audit and financial reports in the proposed work programme, subject to the Legal observations made later in this report, the council could potentially be at risk of not identifying potential issues and risks to the authority and thus taking mitigating actions.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within the body of this report.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

None applicable to this report apart from the benefits, as discussed

above, of member oversight of the council's key financial practices and policies.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

None applicable to this report but Audit and Governance is required to receive and consider reports and agree such reports as required by statute. These include for example, the Treasury Management Statement and Statement of Accounts.

Specific Wards – All wards

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix A

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