

## **Update from Councillor Mark Pope, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee**

At the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 9 November 2021 the following business was transacted:

The meeting began with a training session on Treasury Management provided by the Council's independent adviser Link Asset Services. The Committee reviewed the Council's Annual Treasury Report and the 2021/22 Mid-Year Review.

The Committee noted that due to workload related pressures on the External Auditor, the Council's external audit would not now be commencing until early in the New Year.

The Committee received a report containing a series of recommendations (previously agreed by the Executive) relating to the 2022/23 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-2027.

The Committee reviewed the Q2 Strategic Risk Register. It was noted that only minor amendments had been made to the document since the previous review by the Committee.

The Committee reviewed and noted the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement 2020-21 and also received an update on the collection and allocation of Section 106 financial contributions and also on the work of the Infrastructure Contributions and Spend Manager.

The Committee noted the requirement for the Council to put in place new arrangements in time to make an appointment of an external auditor by 31 December 2022 for the five years beginning in April 2023. After discussion it was agreed to recommend to Council that the Council should opt into the sector led body for audit appointments provided by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

The Committee received updates on the Council's Data Protection arrangements and also regarding Standards. With regard to the latter, the Committee agreed that an additional "Independent Person" should be appointed.

The Committee reviewed the Council's Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy and also agreed the following policies:

Anti-Money Laundering Policy 2021

Confidential Reporting Procedure (Whistleblowing) Policy 2021

Fraud Sanctions Policy 2021

The Committee's work programme was agreed and noted.