

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 July 2020	Meeting Name: Audit, governance and standards committee
Report title:		In-year review of the work programme - July 2020	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee consider potential governance topics for 2019-20 and onwards and agree a format going forward.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. At their meeting in June 2019, the committee considered and agreed a work programme for 2019-20 and recommended a series of governance conversations with the strategic directors. These have been scheduled for 2019-20 as follows:
 - 16 July 2019 – Kevin Fenton, strategic director of place and wellbeing
 - 11 September 2019 – Michael Scorer, strategic director of housing and modernisation
 - 20 November 2019 – Caroline Bruce, strategic director of environment and leisure
 - 10 February 2020 – David Quirke-Thornton, strategic director of children's and adults' services
 - 10 June 2020 - Duncan Whitfield, strategic director of finance and governance
 - 20 July 2020 – Eleanor Kelly, chief executive.
3. Following the July 2020 meeting, the audit, governance and standards committee will have met with all the current strategic directors over the course of a year. The committee may wish to look at further areas of the council's governance structures for consideration.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In considering items for inclusion, it may be helpful to do this within the framework of the committee's purpose, as set out in the constitution. This is set out in the constitution to be:
 - Independent assurance of the adequacy of the council's governance arrangements, including the risk management framework and the associated control environment
 - Independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment
 - Oversight of the financial reporting process
 - Scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies
 - A framework to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by councillors,

co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives.

5. The committee's terms of reference, as approved by council assembly, cover functions relating to audit activity, the regulatory framework, accounts, treasury management and the council's standards framework. They are attached at Appendix 1 as they may further help the committee to determine items to be included in its work programme.
6. There remains a need to ensure flexibility in terms of emerging issues which come to light through items already on the committee's agenda. For example, a review of audit recommendations and progress on their implementation may highlight a need to request the attendance of individuals at a future meeting to help explain actions taken. The draft programme therefore includes a standing item relating to review of the committee's work plan.
7. Training will continue to be provided for members on the role of the committee, and development needs will continue to be monitored to enable appropriate training to be provided as opportunities arise.

Policy implications

8. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

Community impact statement

9. The decision is considered not to have a significant impact on any particular community or group.

Resource implications

10. There are no direct resource implications in this report.

Consultation

11. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

12. None required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	10 July 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	10 July 2020	