

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	<b>9 October 2024</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023-2024</b>	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>Jane West Corporate Director of Resources</b>	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services &amp; Monitoring Officer</b>	
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Dr Olu Olasode <i>Independent Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee</i></b>	
<b>DECISION TAKER:</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:</b>		
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>  <i>(* See guidance)</i>	No	Public
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>N/A</b>	

## 1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 The report sets out the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Full Council is recommended to receive the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee attached as Appendix 1.

## 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The Constitution provides for Audit and Governance Committee to make an annual report to Full Council on the committees' performance in relation to its terms of reference and effectiveness in meeting its purpose.

## 4. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

4.1 The Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee is attached as Appendix 1. The report highlights the work of the Committee over the 2023 – 2024 municipal year as provided within the Committee's 'Terms of Reference and Scope of Work'. It also

includes a brief forward look into the year ahead of the Committee's work and developments.

- 4.2** The procedure for Council receiving the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee is set out in paragraphs 3.69 to 3.71 of Part 4A Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution. The procedure is set out as follows:-

Extract from Part 4A: Council Procedure Rules, Council Constitution

3.70 The overall time which may be devoted to questioning any Annual Reports shall be not more than ten minutes per report. The Chair of the relevant Committee (or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair) shall introduce and answer questions on the report. The Chair of the Committee shall not have more than 3 minutes speaking time to introduce the report.

3.71 For the remaining time available, the report will be open to questions. In the event that any recommendation in the report has not been reached when the overall time limit has expired, it shall be put immediately to the vote.

3.72 Any Member, except the seconder of the report, may ask the Chair or Vice Chair (as appropriate) not more than two questions on each paragraph of the report.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1.** None.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1.** The Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report had been prepared with the input of the members of the Committee and signed off by the Audit and Governance Committee for submission to Council.

## **7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 7.1.** A key role for the Audit and Governance Committee is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards. The proposals support the Executive Mayor's Business Plan Outcome 1: Getting our finances right and ensure good governance is embedded and adopt best practice.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1.1** There are no financial consequences arising from this report.

### **8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.2.1** The Constitution provides for Audit and Governance Committee to make an annual report to Full Council on the committees' performance in relation to its terms of reference and effectiveness in meeting its purpose.

### **8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

8.3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Equality Act 2010. In summary, the Council must in the exercise of all its functions, “have due regard to” the need to comply with the three arms or aims of the general equality duty. These are to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

8.3.2 Having due regard means to consider the three aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making. This means that decision makers must be able to evidence that they have taken into account any impact of the proposals under consideration on people who share the protected characteristics before decisions are taken.

8.3.3 There are no equality implications arising from this recommendation.

### **9. APPENDICES**

9.1 Appendix A: Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

### **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None