

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	15 th /16 th February 2022	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Annual Report – Corporate Audit Committee	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 – Annual Report		
Appendix 2 – Procurement Options (External Audit) Corporate Audit Committee Report 15 th December 2021		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Corporate Audit Committee has specific delegated powers given to it from Full Council and as such is required to report back annually on its work to Council under its Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 The Corporate Audit Committee Annual Report (Appendix 1) details the work carried out by the Committee for the period July 2020 to December 2021.
- 1.3 As part of its work the Corporate Audit Committee resolved at its meeting on the 15th December 2021, to recommend to Full Council that they approve the use of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to carry out the re-procurement of External Auditors to be appointed to B&NES Council for the 5-year period commencing 1st April 2023.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted
- 2.2 The Council approve the use of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) to carry out the re-procurement of External Auditors to be appointed to B&NES Council for the 5-year period commencing 1st April 2023 and that the Council's Chief Financial Officer (S151) writes to PSAA to formally accept the invitation to opt into the national scheme before the deadline of Friday 11th March 2022.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are financial implications in terms of the appointment of the Council's External Auditor. For the 2019/20 audit work the fees were £138,281 (B&NES Council) and £32,430 (Avon Pension Fund). This provides a guide to future fees chargeable.

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The work of the Corporate Audit Committee assists the organisation in efficiently and effectively contributing to the Council's objectives and priorities.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Appendix 1 details the sixteenth report of the Corporate Audit Committee since it was established by the Council on 12 May 2005. It reviews the work done by the Committee over the 17 months period (July 2020 to December 2021), its future work plan, membership and support of the Committee.
- 5.2 In 2020/21 the number and format of Committee meetings was impacted by Covid19 however it has continued to focus its agenda on its core role and responsibilities as per the Committee Terms of Reference.
- 5.3 The Committee's work will continue to develop and as part of its responsibilities it has reviewed its terms of reference and the key areas of responsibility are still considered appropriate and meet current best practice.
- 5.4 Finally Appendix 2 details a review of options for the procurement of our External Auditor and at its December meeting the Committee recommended participation in the national framework as set out in the recommendations to the report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A proportionate risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 The Corporate Audit Committee has specific responsibility for ensuring the Council's Risk Management and Financial Governance framework is robust and effective.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines and no significant issues have been identified.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The report was distributed to the Council's S151 Officer and Chair of the Audit Committee for consultation.

9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

9.1 No specific issues to consider.

10 ADVICE SOUGHT

10.1 The Council's Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>Jeff Wring (01225 477323)</i>
Background papers	<i>None</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	