

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	
TITLE:	Annual Report – Corporate Audit Committee	
WARD:	ALL	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
<b>Appendix 1 – Annual Report</b>		

### **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 to Council under its Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 This is the Annual Report of the Committee which details its work over the last year.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

Council is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications relevant to this report

### **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

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

## **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 details the sixth annual 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 past 12 months, its future workplan, membership and support of the Committee.
- 5.2 The Committee's work has continued to develop as detailed at Appendix 1 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.
- 5.3 Significant changes to the external audit regime have been signalled by the new coalition government following their decision to abolish the Audit Commission. A set of proposals entitled 'the future of local public audit' was recently consulted on nationally. This proposed a radical shift in roles and responsibilities for the S151 Officer and Audit Committee in relation to external audit.
- 5.4 The Audit Committee carefully considered all of the implications from this new proposal recognising the new government's desire to reduce costs and remove significant inspection work in this sector. They endorsed a robust management response to this consultation exercise and we are currently waiting to hear how the government will take their original proposals forward. Once the implications for the Council and the Committee are clear we will need to examine the implications of these changes for the Committee's terms of reference and future work programme.

## **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.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The report was distributed to the Chief Executive, Council's Monitoring Officer, 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 Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	