

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2023

## REPORT APPROVED BY HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE

### 1. Reason for Report

In line with the delegations of this Committee, this report presents the Annual Report of the Committee for 2023.

### 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

2.1 the work completed by this Committee from January to December 2023 as set out in **Appendix 1**; and

2.2 consider the Committee Members assessment of their performance against the Audit Scotland Audit Committee checklist as referenced in paragraph 4.2 and in **Appendix 2**.

### 3. Executive Summary (What is the report about?)

3.1 The delegations to this Committee include 'preparation of an annual report on the work and performance of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee'.

3.2 The format of this Annual Report, was agreed by this Committee at its meeting on 23 September 2020.

### 4. Detail and Analysis

4.1 The reports considered between January – December 2023 in relation to this Committee's delegations are presented in **Appendix 1**. It can be seen that the majority of the Committee's remit has been addressed during the course of the last year.

4.2 The 'Audit Committee checklist' drawn from the Audit Scotland Report 'Safeguarding Public Money: Are You Getting It Right?' has also been used to assess the Committee's activities. Committee Members were invited to contribute their views. Responses received are noted in **Appendix 2**.

4.3 The Committee held a workshop on 6 September 2023 to discuss a number of topics, relating to the role of the Committee, that had arisen as part of the 25 April 2023 meeting. Topics covered included:

- Role of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee – Delegations
- Assurance Principles – Three lines of defence model
- Role – Guidance on the operation of Local Authority Audit Committees
- Scrutiny
- Risk Management
- Internal Audit
- External Audit

### Audit

4.4 Members received the Annual Internal Audit Controls Assurance Statement for 2022-23 and agreed the Internal Audit plan for 2023-24 (which was subsequently updated in November 2023) along with the Internal Audit Charter. Nine internal audit reports were discussed by the Committee. It also received follow-up reports on three internal audit reports with the responsible officers available to answer any questions.

4.5 Members noted the External Audit Plan for 2022-23 at the April meeting of the Committee and subsequently received the External Audit report for 2022-23 at its November meeting.

### Risk

4.6 The Committee considered two of the Council-wide risks over the course of the year (Management of Change and Poverty and Inequalities). In addition, the Committee received a report on the operation of the Council's risk management arrangements.

4.7 A further new Risk is being considered as part of this meetings agenda (Workforce) which marks the completion of a full cycle of review of Council-wide Risks. A new cycle of review of these Risks by the Committee will commence in April 2024.

### Scrutiny

4.8 In line with a Committee decision to carry out two Scrutiny Reviews (Additional Support Needs School Transport and Children with Additional Support Needs), four workshops were held which allowed Members to scrutinise detailed information presented by officers.

4.9 The Findings and Recommendations arising from Additional Support Needs School Transport Scrutiny Review were agreed by Full Council on 14 December, with the Findings and Recommendations arising from the Children with Additional Support Needs Scrutiny Review due to be considered as part of the agenda for this meeting.

4.10 The Committee received two Scrutiny Review Follow Up reports, on Eligibility Criteria and Controls for the Town Centre Living Fund and Outcomes Achieved from the Council's Investment in the Public Social Partnership on Community Transport. This enabled the Committee to consider the implementation and impact of the recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews.

## **5. Council Plan Outcomes and Principles (How do the proposals contribute to the delivery of the Council's strategic outcomes and impact the principles as published?) [Themes and Strategic Outcomes](#)**

The activities of this Committee supports the Council in being responsive, through communicating openly, maintaining sustainable finances, being organised to deliver, maintaining high standards and making the best use of resources.

## **6. Implications and Risk**

### **Financial: (what resources are required/is it budgeted for?)**

There are no financial risks associated with this report.

**Legal: (are there legal implications to be considered?)**

There are no legal risks associated with this report.

**Workforce: (do the proposals have any implications for or impact upon employees?)**

There are no workforce risks associated with this report.

**Impact Assessment: (is the proposal such that an [impact assessment](#) is required?)**

The report does not propose a change in policy, the formal adoption of a plan, policy or strategy or propose a service change and it is therefore not necessary to complete an Impact Assessment.

**7. Governance Assurance**

The Council Management Team has been consulted during the preparation of this report and agrees with its contents.

**Author**

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**Approved by**

CHIEF OFFICER	DESIGNATION
Vlad Valiente	Head of Governance and Assurance

**Appendices – 2**

Appendix 1 – Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Delegations and Reports submitted during 2023

Appendix 2 – Annual Survey

**Background Papers and Relevant Committee Decisions**

[CIPFA Audit Committees Guidance 2018](#)

[Audit Scotland Report – Safeguarding Public Money: Are you Getting Right? - 25 June 2019 \(item 4\)](#)

[Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019-2020 – Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee – 23 September 2020 \(Item 12\)](#)

[Dumfries and Galloway Council Scheme of Administration and Delegation to Committees](#)