

Agenda Item No: 1.8

Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report

To: Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 30th June 2021

Public report: Public Report

From: John Pye

Audit and Governance Committee Chair

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

Note the Annual Report of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee for 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and provide any feedback to

the Committee.

Voting arrangements: Note only item, no vote.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Audit & Governance Committee has a wide-ranging remit that underpins the Combined Authority's governance processes by providing independent challenge and assurance of the adequacy of risk management, internal control including internal audit, anti-fraud and the financial reporting framework. These are detailed in its terms of reference.
- 1.2 It is important for the Audit and Governance Committee to review annually the work undertaken by the committee to ensure best practice and effectiveness for the Combined Authority is being achieved. The Annual Report of the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee shows the work carried out by the Committee over the 2020/21 municipal year.

2. Background

2.1 It is recommended by relevant professional bodies that audit and governance committees should produce an annual report which details the work of the Committee for the Municipal Year. At its meeting on 6th April 2021 the Audit and Governance Committee approved the Annual Report of the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee for submission to the Combined Authority. The Annual Report forms Appendix 1 to this report.

2.2 The Annual Report shows:

- Background to the Committee, its roles, responsibilities and membership;
- An overview and coverage of its remit including Internal Audit, Accounts and Financial Management, External Audit, Risk Management, Control Assurance, Corporate Governance, and Fraud and Irregularities;
- Training provided to ensure that suitable challenge and scrutiny is adopted.
 Records of complaints, Freedom of Information requests and attendance levels for the committee to consider.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. It is good practice for Audit & Governance Committees to submit an annual report to their authority board.

5. Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1 – Audit and Governance Annual Report

- 6. Background Papers
- 6.1 <u>A&G Committee Agenda 6th April 2021</u>