

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **Report of the Head of Governance & Human Resources**

#### **Part A**

#### UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIPFA POSITION STATEMENT: AUDIT COMMITTEES IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE 2022

##### Purpose of Report

To update members on the work that is ongoing to ensure that the Council complies with CIIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities.

##### Recommendation

1. The Committee recommends to Council a change to the constitution from one independent member to two independent members of the Audit Committee
2. That the Committee agree the process for the recruitment of the independent member to the Committee following the change to the constitution

##### Reasons

- 1 & 2. To ensure that the committee meets its statutory responsibilities for governance and internal control arrangements, financial management, financial reporting and internal audit.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

CIPFA have update their Position Statement to promote best practice and provide clear guidance for local authorities to maximise the effectiveness of their Audit Committees. The guidance is not legislative but CIPFA expects that all local government bodies should make their best efforts to adopt the principles, aiming for effective audit committee arrangements.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decision

The committee is required to report annually on how it has complied with the position statement, discharged its responsibilities, and include an assessment of its performance.

##### Report Implications

##### **Financial Implications**

None

**Risk Management**

There are no specific risks associated with this report.

**Equality and Diversity**

None identified

**Climate Change and Carbon Impact**

None identified

**Crime and Disorder**

None identified

**Publicity Arrangements**

Not applicable.

**Consultations**

Not applicable.

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Caring for the Environment	No
Healthy Communities	No
A Thriving Economy	No
Your Council	<b>Yes</b>

Background Papers: CIPFA’s Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022 (appendix A of attached report)

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## **Part B**

In May 2022, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) published a revised and updated edition of the document Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2022. In support of the statement CIPFA also released guidance documentation in October 2022.

The report updates the committee on the steps towards compliance with the statement.

### Appendices

Appendix 1