

Council – 6 September 2022

**Recommendation from the
Audit and Procurement
Committee
25 July 2022**

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Procurement Committee held at
2.30 pm on Monday, 25 July 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor R Lakha (Chair)
Councillor B Singh (Deputy Chair)
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor B Singh

Employees (by Directorate):

Finance B Hastie (Chief Operating Officer), P Jennings, K Tyler

Law and Governance L Knight

Others Present Emily Mayne, External Auditors (Grant Thornton)

Apologies: Councillor M Ali

Public Business

14. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

20. Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2021-22

The Audit and Procurement Committee, a key component of the Council's governance framework, supporting good governance and strong public financial management, considered their Annual Report to Council that provided an overview of its activity during 2021-2022. The report would be submitted to the City Council at their meeting on 6th September 2022.

The report included an introduction by the Chair, Councillor Lakha. Despite the challenges which have continued to be presented by Covid-19 over the last year,

the Committee has continued to discharge its key responsibility effectively, namely providing independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the Council's financial reporting and governance processes. The Committee has provided oversight of key matters such as the Annual Governance Statement, Internal Audit activity and challenges in meeting the regulatory deadlines for the publication of the Council's accounts. Alongside this, the Committee has considered additional information which provides assurance over the governance arrangements for procurement activity.

The report provided further details of the reports considered during this time which included, under Governance: The Council's Draft Annual Governance Statement. Financial Management and Accounting reports were: The audit and publication of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20; The Revenue and Capital Outturn Position for 2019-20; Quarterly Monitoring Reports of performance against revenue and capital budgets 2021-22; and a Treasury Management Activity Update.

Reports were submitted by the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, in 2021-22, including the 2020/21 Audit Plan; Informing the Audit Risk Assessment; Addendum to the Audit Findings for the 2019/20 accounts.

In relation to Internal Audit, the Committee considered the Internal Audit Annual Report and the Internal Audit Plan for 2021-22 along with progress reports on Internal Audit work.

Fraud reports submitted during 2021-22 were: The Annual Fraud and Error Report; and the Half Yearly Fraud and Error Update Report. Procurement Reports had also been received, along with a report discharging the Committee's function to determine salary severance packages of £100k or over.

Other reports considered during this period which were linked to risk management, internal control and governance, including the Whistleblowing Annual Report 2020/21; Complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2020/21; the Corporate and Covid-19 Risk Registers; the Information Governance Annual Report 2020/21; and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Annual Compliance Report.

The Committee agreed to recommend that the City Council consider the Annual Report for 2021-2022 at their meeting on 6th September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Audit and Procurement Committee agrees that the City Council be recommended to consider the Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2021-2022 at their meeting on 6th September 2022.