

Council – 2nd September 2025

Recommendation from Audit and Procurement Committee 21st July 2025

Coventry City Council Minutes of the Meeting of Audit and Procurement Committee held at 2.30pm on Monday 21st July 2025

Present:

Members:

Councillor R Lakha (Chair)
Councillor B Singh (Deputy Chair)
Councillor M Ali
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor J Lepoidevin (Substitute for Councillor P Male)
Councillor B Singh

Member (by invitation): Councillor R Brown – Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources

Employees (by Directorate):

Finance and Resources B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources), P Helm, T Pinks, K Tyler

Law and Governance O Aremu, M Salmon

Apologies: Councillor J Blundell

Public Business

9. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

RECOMMENDATION

13. Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2024/25

The Audit and Procurement Committee considered their Annual Report to Council that provided an overview of its activity during 2024/2025. The report would be submitted to the City Council at their meeting on 2nd September 2025.

The report included an introduction by the Chair, Councillor R Lakha, and indicated that the Audit and Procurement Committee was a key component of the

Council's governance framework, supporting good governance and strong public financial management. Over the last year, the Committee had 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 report demonstrated the vital role carried out by the Committee and the contribution that it made to the Council's overall governance arrangements.

The Committee received a range of routine reports based on the clearly defined expectations of services / functions that reported to it, e.g. internal / external audit and financial management. It also received ad-hoc reports which focussed on either a specific concern or developments that impacted directly on the Committee.

The report detailed the Committee's activity in 2024/25 in the following areas: Governance; Financial Management and Accounting; External Audit; Internal Audit; Fraud and Error; Procurement and Salaries. Reports considered during this period which were linked to risk management, internal control and governance, included: Whistleblowing Annual Report 2023/24; Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Annual Compliance Report; Complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2023/24; Corporate Risk Register; Information Governance Annual Report 2023/24; and Coventry Municipal Holdings Group Accounts.

The report also detailed priorities for the Committee for 2024/25 which included:

- The Council's risk management, governance, internal control and financial management arrangements continue to operate effectively, especially in light of the ongoing financial pressures caused by inflation, increasing service demands and difficult conditions within social care markets.
- The deadlines relating to the publication of the Council's 2024/25 unaudited and audited Statements of Accounts are achieved and the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure the timetable is met in forthcoming years.

The Committee agreed to recommend that Council consider the Annual Report for 2024/2025 at their meeting on 2nd September 2025.

RESOLVED that the Audit and Procurement Committee recommends that Council considers the Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2024/2025 at their meeting on 2nd September 2025.