

**Agenda Item 7
Council – 5 September 2023
Recommendation from Audit
and Procurement Committee
24 July 2023**

**Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Procurement Committee held at 2.30 pm
on Monday, 24 July 2023**

Present:

Members: Councillor R Lakha (Chair)
Councillor S Agboola
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor R Brown
Councillor E Ruane
Councillor B Singh

Employees (by Service Area):

Finance B Hastie, Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)
P Jennings, T Pinks, K Tyler

Law and Governance S Bennett

Apologies: Councillors M Ali and T Sawdon

Public Business

9. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

14. Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report to Council 2022/23

The Audit and Procurement Committee considered their Annual Report to Council that provided an overview of its activity during 2022-2023. The report would be submitted to the City Council at their meeting on 5th September 2023.

The report included an introduction by the Chair, Councillor R Lakha, and indicated that the Audit and Procurement Committee is a key component of the Council's governance framework, supporting good governance and strong public financial management. 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 report indicated that, during the year, 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 Annual report detailed priorities for 2023-24 which include ensuring that:

- The Council's risk management, governance, internal control and financial management arrangements continue to operate effectively, especially in light of the inflationary pressures facing the country.
- Matters relating to the publication of the Council's Statements of Accounts are resolved, with an expectation that the 2019-20 accounts are published before the end of 2023.

The Annual report also detailed activity in the following areas:-

- Governance
- Financial Management and Accounting
- External Audit
- Internal Audit
- Fraud and Error
- Procurement
- Salaries

Other reports were considered during this period, which were linked to risk management, internal control and governance, including the Whistleblowing Annual Report 2021/22; Complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2021/22; the Corporate Risk Register; the Information Governance Annual Report 2021/22; 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 2022-2023 at their meeting on 5th September 2023.

RESOLVED that the Audit and Procurement Committee recommends that the City Council considers the Audit and Procurement Committee Annual Report 2022-2023 at their meeting on 5th September 2023.