

From: Ben Watts, General Counsel
To: Governance and Audit Committee, 16 May 2024
Subject: Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report to County Council
Status: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) The Terms of Reference for the Governance and Audit Committee stipulates that, through an annual report, the Committee is able to ensure that the County Council is sighted on the activity of the Committee alongside the importance of financial probity, good governance and learning lessons from audit activity. The annual report aims to highlight the role and work of the Committee, draw attention to some of the governance issues the Committee has considered, and identify key themes that all Members should be sighted on.
- b) To ensure the timely consideration of the Committee's work over the past 18 months, it is intended that the Annual Report for 2023/24 will be considered at the 18 July 2024 County Council meeting. It is necessary that the report is an up-to-date reflection of governance activity, therefore, it will also reflect on the papers for consideration at the 16 May 2024 Governance and Audit Committee meeting.
- c) The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for 11 July 2024 and this will not allow sufficient time to formally approve the Annual Report as this will be after the County Council agenda will have been published.
- d) To meet the proposed timescales, it is recommended that the Officers work to finalise the report in consultation with the Chair ahead of the 18 July 2024 County Council meeting. The Chair will ensure that the Committee Members are sighted on the report and that they have the opportunity to make comments on the draft before it is finalised. The final report will also be included in the agenda of the 11 July meeting for noting.

2. Recommendation

The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) Delegate authority to Officers to finalise the Governance and Audit Committee's Annual Report to County Council in consultation with the Chair.

3. Background Documents

None.

4. Report Author and Relevant Director

Ben Watts, General Counsel
03000 416814
benjamin.watts@kent.gov.uk

Katy Reynolds, Governance Adviser
03000 422252
katy.reynolds@kent.gov.uk