

Name of meeting: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 22 APRIL 2022

Title of report: GAINING ASSURANCE

Purpose of report.

To consider the ways that the Committee may gain adequate assurance about the way that council carries out its activities

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	not applicable
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	not applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	not applicable

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR? Yes

1. Summary

1.1 The report- attached- sets out information about the theory of assurance, the ways in which it can be obtained, the current arrangements for gaining that assurance, and asks if these should be enhanced.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 The report provides the detail to support a discussion by the Committee on assurance arrangements, to inform a further paper to be considered in due course. (Which may involve Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny as well as this Committee)

3. **Implications for the Council**

- 3.1 **Working with People** – None directly- but see 3.6
- 3.2 **Working with Partners** – None directly- but see 3.6
- 3.3 **Place Based Working** – None directly- but see 3.6
- 3.4 **Improving outcomes for children**– None directly- but see 3.6
- 3.5 **Climate change and air quality**- None directly- but see 3.6
- 3.6 **Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**- gaining assurance about operational and governance arrangements is a way in which the Committee links its role in corporate governance and audit. Many of these will be financial, but there are many other aspects (as 3.1 to 3.5 above) where assurance knowledge will enhance the understanding about, and hopefully maintain or drive achievement of successful performance against all aspects of service provision.

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

- 4.1 Executive Team has given an initial consideration to the matter of obtaining entity wide assurance.

5. **Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 The report, and any observations made by this Committee will inform any proposals to achieve a wide understanding of entity wide assurance and enable this Committee and other parts of the council to consider if any changes to assurance arrangements should be made.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

- 6.1 Members are asked to consider the attached report (and the questions at 5.3(a-f)) and make any observations to inform completion of the process.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk & Internal Audit (01484 221000 x73672)

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

None.

10. **Service Director responsible**

Not applicable