

REPORT TITLE: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report

Meeting:	Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
Date:	7th August 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Councillor Simon Brophy
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	N/A
Purpose of Report: This report sets out a summary of the work undertaken by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee during 2025/26. It also provides assurance that the Committee complies with the CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police.	
Recommendations: The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee is requested to: - 1) Note the assurances set out in this report that the Committee complies with CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police; and 2) Approve the draft Annual Report at Appendix A to this report for onward submission to Council. Reasons for Recommendations In accordance with best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), this report demonstrates how the Committee has discharged its responsibility.	
Resource Implications: There are no resource implications.	
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Rachel Spencer-Henshall Kevin Mulvaney Samantha Lawton

Electoral wards affected: Not Applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not Applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There are no GDPR implications

1. Executive Summary

This report sets out the draft annual report of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year

2. Information required to take a decision

The report demonstrates how the Committee supports the Council's governance and audit arrangements, and in doing so supports the Council to deliver the vision and priorities set out in the Council Plan.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Strong, effective corporate governance and audit assurance underpins the work of the Council in delivering all of its priorities outlined in the Council Plan.

3.2 Financial Implications

Not applicable.

3.3 Legal Implications

Not applicable.

3.4 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

Not applicable.

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. Engagement

Not applicable.

6. Options

Not applicable.

6.1 Options considered

Not applicable.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

Not applicable.

7. Next steps and timelines

Subject to approval by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, the Annual Report will be considered at Council.

- 8. Contact officer**
Nicola Sylvester, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer. 01484 221000
- 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**
None
- 10. Appendices**
Appendix A Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Activity – 2025-26
Appendix B Committee Self Evaluation 2025-26
- 11. Service Director responsible**
Samantha Lawton – Service Director – Legal Governance and Commissioning.