

TITLE	Audit Committee Annual Report 2022-23
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Audit Committee on 13 March 2023 Council on 23 March 2023
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This is the annual report of the Audit Committee and covers the municipal year 2022/23. The format of the report has been developed to enable the reader to form a view about the effectiveness of the Committee's activities during the year and its oversight of the Assurance and Risk Management Frameworks within which Wokingham Borough Council operates.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) The Audit Committee is recommended to review the draft annual report for 2022/23 (at Appendix 1), agree any amendments and finalise in preparation for presentation to Council on 23 March 2023 by the Chair of the Audit Committee.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

In accordance with CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) Audit Committee Guidelines for Local Authorities 2018, it is recommended practice for an annual public report to be produced and reported to Council demonstrating how the committee has discharged its responsibilities.

Background to Annual report of Audit Committee

A draft report of the activities of the committee for the financial year 2022/23 has been prepared and is included within Appendix 1. It has previously been circulated for review and comment to Audit Committee members. It is proposed that any suggested amendments/additional comments are discussed and agreed at the committee.

The final report will then be produced for the Chair of the committee, to schedule and present to Council on 23 March 2023.

Compliance with CIPFA's guidance for Local Authority Audit Committees 2018, demonstrates the committee's commitment to high standards and the production of the annual report demonstrates the role the committee exercises in being a key component of good governance for Wokingham Borough Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Cross-Council Implications

Public Sector Equality Duty

Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

Climate Emergency – ***This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council's carbon neutral objective.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

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