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| TITLE | Audit Committee Annual Report 2022-23 |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | 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

Council is asked to note the 2022/23 annual report of the Chair of Audit Committee as agreed by the Committee at its meeting of 13 March 2023.

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 report of the activities of the committee for the financial year 2022/23 has been prepared and is included within Appendix 1.

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

None.

Cross-Council Implications

None.

Public Sector Equality Duty

This is an information report – 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*

There are no direct implications impacting on the Council's carbon neutral objective.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

None.

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Service Governance

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