

Work Programme Update Report

Date of meeting:	11 December 2024		
Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee		
Report of:	Executive Director – Corporate Services and Commercial		
Portfolio:	Corporate Services		
Wards affected:	(All Wards)		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

Summary:

The Audit and Governance Work Programme has been developed to help ensure that all of the responsibilities of the Committee set out in the Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference are discharged during the municipal year.

This report provides an update on reports listed for submission at the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 4 September 2024 and reasons for non-submission of some of the reports listed.

The reports considered at the meeting on 4 September 2024 were listed in the Work Programme for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year, which had been approved by Audit and Governance Committee on 20 March 2024.

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to note the Audit and Governance Committee Work Programme update on reports listed for submission to the meeting held on 19 June 2024.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

1.1 Introduction / Background

1.1.1 The Work Programme for each Municipal Year is an important element in planning the year ahead as being closely aligned with the Terms of Reference, it ensures that the Committee has a structured, consistent approach to fulfilling its responsibilities within the Terms of Reference and helps to ensure the effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee. It is also important to note that a degree of flexibility is applied in order that any ad hoc / urgent reports may be considered by the Committee as and when required.

1.2 Work Programme Update – September 2024

1.2.1 It is good practice to provide the Audit and Governance Committee with regular updates on reports listed in the Work Programme and submission of ad hoc reports for consideration at each of its quarterly meetings.

1.2.2 Appendix 1 provides details of the reports listed in the 2024-2025 Work Programme for consideration at the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 4 September 2024 and the reasons for non-submission of some of the reports listed. It also provides details of ad hoc reports submitted which were not listed in the Work Programme

1.2.3 As agreed by Audit and Governance Committee on 22 June 2022, update reports on adherence to the Work Programme will be provided to each of the quarterly meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee throughout the municipal year.

2. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications.

3. Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications.

4. Corporate Risk Implications

The Work Programme includes a Quarterly Corporate Risk Register.

5 Staffing HR Implications

There are no direct staffing implications.

6 Conclusion

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication – “Practical Guidance for Local and Authorities and Police” recommends as good practice, the provision of an annual Work programme to enable Audit and Governance Committees to discharge their duties in accordance with their Terms of Reference. Adherence to the work plan ensures that the Audit and Governance Committee has a structured, consistent approach to fulfilling its responsibilities as detailed in the CIPFA guidance.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To not have a Work Programme and not update the Committee on reasons for non-submission of expected reports would lessen the effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Equality Implications:
There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People:
None
Climate Emergency Implications:
The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services & Commercial (FD7879/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5979/24.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision:

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Update on Reports listed in the 2024-25 Audit and Governance Committee Work Programme and ad hoc reports submitted for consideration by Audit and Governance Committee held on 19 June 2024.

Background Papers:

<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2926&ID=2926&RPID=34906445>