

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE 26 MAY 2022

REVIEW OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE MONITORING OFFICER

1 SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 For the Audit Committee to note and recommend to Council the Audit Committee's terms of reference to be adopted by the Council in May 2022.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members of the Audit Committee note and recommend the terms of reference attached as Appendix 1 to be adopted by the Council at their May 2022 meeting

3 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| COMMUNITY IMPACT | Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)? | |
| | Yes | <i>The Audit Committee is part of the Council's Governance Framework encompassing the whole Council and therefore all of the Council's priorities.</i> |
| | Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people? | |
| | No | |
| TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE | <i>Approval by Council at their May 2022 meeting.</i> | |
| FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT | No | <i>Good governance processes support value for money in ensuring economy, efficient and effectiveness in the Council's decision making and processes. AEM 28.04.22</i> |
| LEGAL ISSUES | Yes | <i>The requirement for Terms of Reference for Council Committees is set out within the Council's Constitution. The Constitution also requires terms of reference to be reviewed on an annual basis. RP 04/05/22</i> |
| OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES | Yes | <i>The Audit Committee provides assurance on good governance and that there is the proper identification and management of risks and robust control arrangements.</i> |
| IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS | Yes | <i>Borough-wide impact</i> |

4 INFORMATION

- 4.1 There is a requirement in the Constitution for all Committees to annually review their terms of reference at their first meeting following Annual Council.
- 4.2 The Audit Committee terms of reference reflect the requirements of the Council under the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 in respect to the appointment of external auditors.
- 4.3 At the January 2022 Audit Committee, a report was presented to members detailing a comparison of its current terms of reference against the latest good practice and other local authority audit

committee terms of reference. It was agreed at this meeting that there would be 4 additions to the terms of reference for the Council's Audit Committee, these include:

- An increased overview of the Council's risk management framework
- Assurance on the Council's partnership arrangements
- Maintaining an overview of Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) investigations including the review of the LGO Annual Letter
- Assurance on the governance of the Council's climate change measures

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Audit Committees – 1st meeting after the commencement of the municipal year

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution
The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015
Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014

Report by Rob Montgomery – Audit & Governance 383103