

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2019/20**

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee

**1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The CIPFA best practice publication '*A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees*' recommends that an Annual Report is prepared by the Chair of the Audit Committee.
- 1.2 The aim of the report is to:-
- demonstrate how the Audit Committee has fulfilled its terms of reference during the financial year and how it is fully committed to helping to improve the Council's governance and control environments during the year ahead.
  - outline how the committee's activities during the financial year are designed to make a positive contribution to the continual improvement of governance arrangements across the Council, as well as performing the statutory roles as identified in the Constitution.

**2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 CIPFA guidance includes the assertion that the "systems of internal audit" can be considered to include the role and effectiveness of the Audit Committee which therefore should be assessed and evaluated.
- 2.2 CIPFA have produced a self-assessment to assist Councils in this evaluation exercise and recommended that this be completed annually by the Committee.
- 2.3 Furthermore, an annual report for 2019/20 has been prepared by the Chair in consultation with the Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance and is attached at Appendix 4 for consideration and approval by Members.

**3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the draft Annual Report be approved by the Audit Committee and submitted to the Council Meeting.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

CIPFA: Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2018 Edition)

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact John Pearsall on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4033 or alternatively email [john.pearsall@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:john.pearsall@stockport.gov.uk)