

Who is Responsible	Membership	Non-Executive Functions	Delegation of Functions
<p>Audit Committee</p>	<p>5 Members of the Council (who are independent of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Panel)</p> <p>Plus at least 1 co-opted independent</p>	<p>To provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements.</p> <p>To have oversight of both internal and external audit including the Council's financial reporting process and governance. Ensuring that there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability.</p> <p>To review and make recommendations to the Council on the selection/appointment of external auditors.</p> <p>The Committee is accountable to full council.</p> <p>In order to effectively discharge these responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Committee may require any officer to attend meetings of the Committee so it may receive explanations regarding any matter that it is considering.</li> <li>b) the Committee may have contact with the Council's External Auditor and Head of Internal Audit.</li> <li>c) the Committee will have access to, and the right to engage with, other Committees.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Role and Functions</u></b></p> <p>The core functions of the audit committee are to provide oversight of a range of core governance and accountability arrangements, responses to the recommendations of assurance providers and helping to ensure robust arrangements are maintained.</p> <p>The specific responsibilities include:</p> <p><b><u>Maintenance of governance, risk and control arrangements</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support a comprehensive understanding of governance across the organisation and among all those charged with governance, fulfilling the principles of good governance.</li> <li>2. Consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements. Understand the risk profile of the Council and seek assurances that active arrangements are in place on risk-related issues.</li> <li>3. Monitor the effectiveness of the system of internal control, including arrangements for financial management, value for money, standards and ethics and fraud and corruption.</li> </ol>	

Financial and governance reporting

4. Be satisfied that the Council's accountability statements (including the annual governance statement), properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it, and demonstrate how governance supports the achievement of the Council's objectives.
5. Support the maintenance of effective arrangements for financial reporting, including the review and approval of the statutory statement of accounts and any reports that accompany them.

Establishing appropriate and effective arrangements for audit and assurance

6. Consider the arrangements in place to secure adequate assurance across the Council's full range of operations (and any collaborations with other entities).
7. In relation to the authority's internal audit functions:
  - oversee its independence, objectivity, performance and conformance to professional standards
  - support effective arrangements for internal audit
  - promote the effective use of internal audit within the assurance framework.
8. Consider the opinion, reports and recommendations of external audit (and inspection agencies) and their implications for governance, risk management or control, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.
9. Contribute to the operation of efficient and effective external audit arrangements, supporting the independence of auditors and promoting audit quality.
10. Support effective relationships between all providers of assurance, audits and inspections, and the organisation, encouraging openness to challenge, review and accountability.