

Audit and Governance Committee	
To advise on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's corporate governance arrangements and internal control environment.	
Governance, Risk and Control	
1.	<p>Monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the effectiveness of the Chief Officer's responsibility for ensuring an adequate internal control environment; • Monitoring the arrangements for the identification, monitoring and control of strategic and operational risk within the Council; • Monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of the arrangements in place for combating fraud and corruption; • Providing an annual report to Council that its systems of governance are operating effectively, which includes the Committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference; • Reviewing and approving the annual Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and its associated assurance framework; • Considering the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements; • Ensuring that the Chief Internal Auditor has the right of independent access to the Committee and its Chair; • Reviewing and monitoring treasury management arrangements in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice; • Considering and advising changes to the Council's Constitution in respect of Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations; • Formulating and keeping under review a Code of Conduct to promote high ethical standards amongst Officers and doing anything that is considered to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Officers; • Formulating and keeping under review the Council's 'whistle-blowing' policy; and • Formulating and keeping under review the Council's arrangements for handling complaints and investigations by the Local Government Ombudsman.
Ethics and Behaviours	
2.	<p>To promote, maintain and assist the achievement of high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct for Members; • To advise the Council on any amendment or revision of the Code; • To secure adequate and appropriate training of Councillors and co-opted Members on the Code of Conduct for Members; • To give general guidance and advice to Councillors on Members' interests and keep under review the Register of Members' Interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give general guidance and advice to Councillors and employees on gifts and hospitality.
External Audit	
3.	<p>Monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's external audit service and respond to its findings. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering the appointment, nature and scope of the external audit of the Council's services and functions; Receiving and considering all external audit reports including the annual plan, annual audit letter and governance report; and Monitoring management's response to the external auditor's findings and the implementation of external audit recommendations.
Internal Audit	
4.	<p>Monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Internal Audit service. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approving the internal audit charter; Approving the annual risk based internal audit plan; Receiving communications from the Chief Internal Auditor on the internal audit activity's performance relative to its plan and other matters, including the annual report and opinion; Receiving and considering major Internal Audit findings and recommendations; Monitoring management's response to Internal Audit findings and the implementation of the recommendations; Making appropriate enquiries of management and the Chief Internal Auditor to determine whether there are inappropriate scope and resource limitations; Agreeing the scope and form of the external assessment as part of the quality assurance and improvement plan; Receiving the results of internal and external assessments of the quality assurance and improvement programme, including areas of non-conformance with professional standards; and Approving significant consulting services not already included in the audit plan, prior to acceptance of the engagement, if this materially impacts on core assurance activity.
Constitution	
5.	<p>To grant dispensations to Councillors and co-opted Members related to interests specified in the Code of Conduct for Members following written requests to the proper officer (Chief Executive) by a Member or Co-opted Member under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, when the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considers that without the dispensation, the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business; • Considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area; • Considers that without the dispensation each member of the authority's executive would be prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the authority's executive, or • Considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation; and • Considers appeals against decisions made by the Monitoring Officer in exercise of their dispensation powers.
Hearings Panel	
6.	<p>To establish a Sub-Committee known as the Hearings Panel and to make recommendations to Council on the appointment of an Independent Person to hear allegations that Members have failed to comply with the Member's Code of Conduct. Specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and review allegations of Member misconduct; and • Determine allegations of Member misconduct.
Powers	
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has the right to require the attendance of any Council officers and/or members in order to respond directly to any issue under consideration; • To review any issues referred to it by the Head of Paid Service, a Corporate Director or any Council body; and • The power to call expert witnesses from outside the Council to give advice on matters under review or discussion.