



**Annual Report from the Chair of Audit**

**Committee to City Council**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Assurance, Governance, Accountability, Risk Management, Independence**



## Foreword by the Chair

Audit Committees play an important role in the good governance of an authority. Best practice guidelines published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) recommend that Audit Committees publish an annual report to maintain transparency and accountability, account for its performance, explain its work, and set out the assurance that has been drawn.

This report summarises the work of the Audit Committee completed between October 2021 and September 2022. It describes the purpose and core functions of the Council's Audit Committee and summarises the assurance activities undertaken; this includes:

- Assurance Statements and Governance:
  - Approving and monitoring the Annual Governance Statement.
  - Receiving Assurance updates from Cabinet Members.
- Risk Management:
  - Reviewing the mechanisms for the assessment and management of risk, thereby developing the Council's ability to respond to known and emerging risks.
  - Overseeing the Council's Treasury Management risk arrangements.
- Performance Management, Quality Management and Value for Money:
  - Monitoring of, and contribution to, the development of the Council's Statement of Accounts.
  - Reviewing the value for money concerns raised by the external auditor.
  - Receiving Ombudsman reports and seeking assurance that lessons learnt are acted upon.
- Financial Reporting, External Audit, Inspection and Assurance:
  - Maintaining a good working relationship with the external auditor.
  - Approving the response to recommendations and monitoring the action.
  - Approving the audited Financial Statements.
- Internal Audit and Counter Fraud:
  - Approving arrangements and monitoring performance of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud.
  - Ensuring internal audit independence and that findings are actioned by managers and consequently help to improve the Council's effectiveness and governance arrangements.

## **The Purpose of Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is a key component of the Council's governance framework. Its purpose is to provide independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk, and control arrangements.

The core functions of the Audit Committee, as set out within the Council's Constitution, are:

- a) review the City Council's Annual Accounts and Annual Governance Statement (AGS). This will include advising on significant changes throughout the year to financial regulations and policies.
- b) to monitor progress in addressing control or governance issues identified in the AGS.
- c) to review and provide the Executive with assurance on the embedding and maintenance of an effective system of corporate governance, including the Council's Corporate Governance Code and Framework, risk management framework, and the associated control environment.
- d) to consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.
- e) to review the adequacy of treasury risk management arrangements as set out in the Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and treasury management practices.
- f) responsibilities as set out in the terms of reference in relation to external audit including reviewing the planned programme of work, noting fees and terms of engagement of the external auditor, considering and advising the executive on responses to audit management letters, reports and investigations and reviewing whether agreed external audit or inspection recommendations have been implemented as timetabled.
- g) to review and make recommendations to the executive regarding the effectiveness of internal audit to include ensuring the internal audit function is adequately resourced, to review its strategy, receive, challenge and approve its annual plan and monitor its delivery and to review significant audit findings and monitor progress by managers in implementing agreed recommendations.
- h) to consider and make recommendations to the executive on the Council's arrangements for deterring, preventing, detecting and investigating fraud.
- i) to consider reports from the Ombudsman and monitor management response in relation to these.
- j) to consider, approve or make recommendations in respect of any other matters at the request of the Council.

## **Committee Aims**

In summary, the Committee's role is to challenge, assess and gather assurance from within the Council and external agencies, on the level and quality of the internal control and risk management processes in place to ensure that Council objectives are met. The benefits gained from operating an effective committee are that it:

- contributes to the development of an effective control environment including arrangements for management of risk.
- increases stakeholder confidence in the objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting by promoting transparency and accountability.
- reinforces the importance and independence of internal and external audit and any other similar review process (e.g. providing a view on the AGS) and the implementation of audit recommendations.
- advises on the adequacy of the assurance framework and considers whether assurance is deployed efficiently and effectively to give assurance that business objectives are met.
- helps the authority to implement the values of ethical governance, including effective arrangements for countering risks of fraud and corruption.

## **Membership**

The Audit Committee was made up of 8 non-executive councillors appointed to reflect the political balance of the Council. The current Members of the Committee are:

Councillor Fred Grindrod (Chair)  
Councillor Paul Tilsley (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Shabrana Hussain  
Councillor Meirion Jenkins  
Councillor Amar Khan  
Councillor Bruce Lines  
Councillor Miranda Perks  
Councillor Shafique Shah

## **Work Undertaken**

A summary of activity categorised by the main topic or source of assurance is given below. The summary is derived from the reports and presentations set before the Committee in the period, which are detailed in **Appendix A**.

## **Audit Committee Effectiveness**

An Audit Committee is central to the provision of effective corporate governance. It is recognised that high performing councils develop effective financial and non-financial control mechanisms through the ongoing liaison and development of expertise made available by the establishment of an Audit Committee, meeting on a regular cycle, with terms of reference focussed on the key audit, control and risk management areas critical to the Council's performance. It is essential that the work of the Committee supports the Council's aim to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

In order to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling its terms of reference the Committee follows the CIPFA recommended best practice framework for Audit Committees. This includes:

- A clear terms of reference that sets out the Audit Committee's purpose.
- Access to audit reports.
- The ability to request relevant officers attend meetings to explain issues.
- Reviewing the Annual Governance Statement on an annual basis and monitoring progress on key areas of concern.
- Its independence and good relationships with key officers.
- Regular reporting from internal and external audit.
- An action tracker.
- An independent external advisor who Committee Members can draw on technical advice and expertise in fulfilling their role.

## **Audit Committee - Work Undertaken September 2021 to September 2022**

### **Assurance Statements and Governance**

#### **Annual Governance Statement (AGS)**

Included in this Committee's terms of reference is the core function that it should review the AGS and monitor progress in addressing the control or governance issues identified.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the publication of an AGS following an (at least) annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls. In order to produce the AGS an annual timetable is required to ensure key tasks are undertaken to deliver the Statement alongside the Council's Statement of Accounts (SOA). The Committee has delegated authority for the formal approval of the AGS.

The 2016 CIPFA/SOLACE publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework" provides the principles by which good governance should be measured. This has been adopted as the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance by the Audit Committee.

The Council's governance arrangements aim to ensure that it sets and meets its objectives and responsibilities in a timely, open, inclusive and honest manner. The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, cultures and values by which the Council is directed and controlled, and through which it engages with, and leads the community to which it is accountable. Every council and large organisation operates within a similar framework, which brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, good practice principles, and management processes.

#### **Summary of work**

The AGS reflects the governance framework operating within the Council and its significant partnerships, groups and trusts. The issues identified in the AGS and the consequent plans for their mitigation are used to direct corporate resources, including those of Internal Audit.

Whilst the Council's SOA for 2020-21 including the AGS have yet to be formally approved, due to the ongoing external audit, the letter of representation issued by the Director of Council Management and approved by the Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> October provided assurance that the AGS:

*"fairly reflects the Council's risk assurance and governance framework and we confirm that we are not aware of any significant governance issues that are not disclosed within the AGS".*

The Council's AGS, which forms part of the SOA, for 2021-22 was reviewed and agreed by the by Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The 2021-22 AGS included seven significant governance issues:

- Commissioning and contract management.
- Companies.
- Major projects and transformation.

- Housing.
- Asset condition and sufficiency.
- Recruitment and retention.
- Birmingham SEND.

The Audit Committee will continue to monitor progress against these issues throughout the year.

### **Governance of Group Companies**

Good governance of those companies in which the Council has an interest in is an integral part of the governance arrangements of the Council as these ventures involve the expenditure of public money and the stewardship of public resources. The Cabinet Committee - Group Company Governance's role is to ensure that the Council's strategic objectives are met across the group of companies and work to improve the level of Council oversight of the activities of those companies

### **Summary of Work**

The Audit Committee reviewed the Group Accounts included within the Council's draft Financial Statements for 2020–21.

The results from Cabinet Committee – Group Company Governance yearly “Group Boundary” exercise for 2021-22 were reviewed. The “Group Boundary” exercise seeks to define which subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are consolidated with the Council's financial statements to produce the Group Accounts. This exercise includes assurance statements from those companies that meet the criteria for consolidation, or which may meet the criteria in the near future. The assurance statements are broken down into three main areas:

- Company Environment – looking at the governance arrangements of the company.
- The Identification, Mitigation and Reporting of Risk – looking at how the company manages risk.
- Financial Statements – looking at factors that may impact on the company's financial health and financial statements.

### **Risk Management**

The Committee's key risk management role is to provide assurance on the adequacy of the Council's Risk Management Framework (RMF) and the associated control environment by reviewing the mechanisms for assessing and managing risk.

### **Summary of Work**

The Committee has received regular updates on the implementation of the RMF together with the most significant risks. Assurances on the management of these key risks have been sought during Cabinet Members assurance sessions.

## **Treasury Management**

Treasury Management is the management of an organisation's borrowings and investments, the effective management of the associated risks and the pursuit of optimum performance or return consistent with those risks.

The Council's treasury management function operates in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice (the TM Code) and Prudential Code. The TM Code requires authorities to nominate a body within the organisation to be responsible for scrutiny of treasury management activity.

### **Summary of Work**

The Committee have reviewed the Treasury Risk Management arrangements including the Council's:

- Treasury Management Strategy and Policy.
- Treasury Management Practices.
- Treasury management reporting and monitoring.

## **Performance Management**

It is essential for the Council to have a performance management framework in place which effectively measures and reports success in delivering the key priorities that have been set.

### **Summary of Work**

The Committee received an update from the Chief Executive on the Corporate Plan 2022-2026 and the supporting performance management arrangements.

The Committee has also received updates on key issues and assurance from Cabinet Members.

## **Statement of Accounts, External Audit, Inspection and Assurance**

This area of work covers external providers of assurance including external audit, which is the key external provider of assurance for financial stewardship and accountability.

### **Statement of Accounts External Audit**

The Committee has a duty to scrutinise the Council's financial and non-financial performance, to the extent that it affects the Council's exposure to risk and the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process. It also has the responsibility to approve the Council's Statement of Accounts (SOA) and to consider the external auditor's annual findings report and letter, and relevant reports.

External audit give an independent view of the stewardship and accountability roles of the Council. The duties and powers of the external auditor are set out in statute and statutory codes of practice.

### **Summary of work**

On an annual basis the Committee reviews and approves the accounting policies that are to be adopted for compiling the SOA.



The self-assessment against the CIPFA Financial Management Code was reviewed and assurance gained around the financial management practices that have been adopted.

During the year the Committee noted the independent arrangements that had been approved by Full Council for the appointment of the Council's external auditor for the five years 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Throughout the year the Committee received reports, written and verbal, from the Council's external auditors, detailing their work plans and the progress they had made. The Committee has monitored and received regular updates on the progress made in discharging any recommendations made by the external auditor.

The 2020-21 draft accounts were passed to the external auditors to enable them to undertake their audit work on 30th June 2021.

The external auditor's Draft Findings Report issued to Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 concluded that whilst their audit on the Council's financial Statements was ongoing, subject to resolution of the outstanding queries, they anticipated issuing an unqualified audit opinion. This position was reconfirmed on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The National Audit Office (NAO) introduced a new Code of Audit Practice for the audit year 2020-21. This contained a new set of reporting criteria to assess how Local Authorities were delivering Value for Money (VFM). The new criteria covered Financial Sustainability, Governance and Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness, known as the 3E's. The Code also required more extensive reporting in the form of the Auditors Annual Report (AAR). On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the external auditors draft 2020-21 AAR was considered. Within the draft AAR, the Council was not issued with any 'Statutory Recommendations'. The external auditors were satisfied that the Council had appropriate arrangements in place to ensure it manages risks to its financial sustainability. However, they identified four 'Key Recommendations', two around the service delivery and assurance mechanisms in the Home to School Transport Service, one around the delivery and governance of the SEND services, and another on IT issues relating to system access and changes to the General Ledger.

The action plan created to manage and the track progress against all the recommendations arising from the AAR will be continually reviewed by the Committee to obtain assurance over progress.

The AAR cannot be finalised until the external auditor has finalised their opinion on the Council's Financial Statements for 2020-21. Due to a national issue about the value of Infrastructure Assets, that is affecting many Local Authorities, the external auditor has been unable to finalise their audit on the 2020-21 Financial Statements. CIPFA is working on issuing a revised code of practice to resolve this issue. The Government issued a Statutory Instrument on 25 December 2022 to help resolve this issue.

On the 28th September 2022 the Committee was briefed on the legislative requirements for the approval and publication of the draft and audited SOA 2021-22 and the process that the Council will follow to support the Committee in considering and subsequently approving the audited SOA 2021-22. A briefing on the Accounts was held on the 24 November 2022.

## **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman**

In line with the agreed terms of reference the Audit Committee receive reports from the Ombudsman and monitor management responses.

Complaints need to be used to influence service improvement and therefore to increase customer satisfaction and to highlight areas where controls may be failing.

### **Summary of work**

In November 2021 the Committee considered a report relating to the allocation of social housing. The Ombudsman found fault causing injustice in that the complainant had waited too long for their application to join the Housing Register to be considered and that they were allocated to an incorrect Band. Recommendations were made to remedy the injustice caused.

In January 2022 the Committee considered a report relating to refuse and recycling. The Ombudsman found fault causing injustice in that the Council had consistently failed to return communal bins to the correct area since the summer of 2020. Recommendations were made to remedy the injustice caused including the award of compensation to recognise the frustration and difficulties the failure to return the communal bins had caused.

A further report was considered in June 2022 relating to a Disabled Facilities Grant. The Ombudsman found fault causing injustice in that the Council failed to return handling the adaptations appropriately and the poor quality of the work. Recommendations were made to remedy the injustice caused including the award of compensation to recognise the distress and uncertainty caused and the significant impact the delays and lack of adaptations have had.

## **Internal Audit and Counter Fraud**

One of the Committee's key roles is to review and monitor the work of Internal Audit (IA). The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) set out the requirements for Internal Audit, and the Audit Charter sets out the Council's terms of reference for the service. External and internal assessments of Internal Audit under the PSIAS and its Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan (QAIP) help the Committee assess the performance and effectiveness of the service.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 state that local authorities must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance. The PSIAS require that the responsibility for the management of Internal Audit sits with the Board. In practical terms, at the Council, this Board's responsibility is vested in the Audit Committee, Section 151 Officer, and Monitoring Officer, who exercise their responsibility via the Constitution and the associated policies and procedures.

## **Summary of work**

The service contributes to the achievement of corporate objectives by bringing a systematic disciplined approach to the improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes. Internal Audit is an important part of the Council's governance and control framework.

The Audit Committee agreed:

- the Internal Audit Charter.
- the Internal Audit Annual Workplan.
- performance updates.

In June 2022 the Committee received the Annual Report from the Assistant Director Audit and Risk Management. The report gave a reasonable assurance on the core systems of internal controls evaluated.

As in any large organisation some significant issues that required action were identified. All significant issues have been reported to the appropriate Director during the year. Significant issues are also brought to the attention of the Committee to monitor and ensure the agreed actions were progressed.

The Committee has supported the mandatory external assessment of the internal audit function against the requirements of the PSIAS. This has included agreeing the Terms of Reference and meeting with members of the review team.

Internal Audit continue to coordinate counter fraud activities in line with the Counter Fraud Strategy. During the year the Audit Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Fraud Report containing an assurance on the systems for preventing and detecting fraud across the Council.

## **Conclusion**

Audit Committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework. Their purpose is to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements. This gives confidence to those charged with governance that arrangements are effective.

The work of the Committee supports the Council's aim to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. In accordance with CIPFA guidance, the Committee is independent of executive decision making and the scrutiny functions, able to provide objective oversight, and take a balanced non-political view.

Having considered the available guidance, the terms of reference, and duties of the Audit Committee, the work undertaken, and assurances sought, it is my assessment that the Committee has carried out its roles effectively and provided effective challenge across a range of governance related areas.

Finally, I offer my thanks and appreciation to each Member of the Committee for their proactive contributions which have continued to facilitate constructive challenge; Officers for their support and help in carrying out our role; and the external auditor for their constructive engagement, contributions and responses.

**Councillor Fred Grindrod**  
**Chair of the Audit Committee**

## **Appendix A – List of Reports to Audit Committee by Date**

### **19<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

ASSURANCE SESSION – DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO  
Verbal update from the Deputy Leader with the Director of Digital and Customer Services

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio

EXTERNAL AUDITORS AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2020/21  
Report of the External Auditor

- Key findings arising from the statutory audit of Birmingham City Council for the year ending 31st March 2021

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 2020/21 and AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT  
Report of the Director of Council Management

- The Draft Statement of Accounts
- Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report
- Letter of Representation from the Director of Council Management

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT  
Report of the Director of Council Management

- Approval of the updated Annual Governance Statement
- Agreement of the arrangements for the monitoring the significant governance issues

REPORT INTO ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRAVEL ASSIST SERVICE  
Report of the Interim Director of Education and Skills

- Update on progress made since the Weightmans LLP submitted their report into issues related to the Travel Assist Service in January 2021

BIRMINGHAM AUDIT ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT  
Report of the Assistant Director Audit and Risk Management

- Update on how the Council has managed the risk of fraud during the period April 2020 to March 2021
- Approval of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE  
Report of the Assistant Director Audit and Risk Management

- Update on the management of strategic risks and implementation of the Risk Management Framework

### **29th November 2021**

ASSURANCE SESSION – CABINET MEMBER FINANCE & RESOURCES PORTFOLIO  
The Cabinet Member of Finance & Resources with the Interim Director of Human Resources

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio

TREASURY RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS & DRAFT TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
Report of the Director of Council Management

- Update on the Council's treasury risk management arrangements as set out in the draft 2022/23 Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Treasury Management Practices

BIRMINGHAM AUDIT – HALF YEAR UPDATE REPORT 2021-22

- Update on outputs and performance in relation to the provision of the Internal Audit service

## Appendix A – List of Reports to Audit Committee by Date

Report of the Assistant Director Audit & Risk Management

during the first half of 2021/22

CORPORATE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK  
Report of the Assistant Director Audit & Risk Management

- Update on the development of a Corporate Assurance Framework and the ongoing work through its stages of maturity

EQUAL PAY UPDATE  
Verbal update from the Assistant City Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer

- Update on Equal Pay

EXTERNAL AUDITORS IT AUDIT REPORT  
Report of the External Auditors

- Inform Members of the findings arising from the External Auditors IT General Controls review for applications relevant to the financial statements

EXTERNAL AUDITORS PROGRESS REPORT  
Report of the External Auditors

- Progress update

OMBUDSMAN REPORT CONCERNING A COMPLAINT ABOUT HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICE  
Report of the Managing Director of the City Housing Directorate

- Inform Members about the Ombudsman's report, issued on 13 October 2021, regarding the Council's delay in dealing with applications to join the Housing Register
- Consider the action taken to address the Ombudsman's recommendations

### **25th January 2022**

ASSURANCE SESSION - CABINET MEMBER VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO  
Verbal update from the Cabinet Member Vulnerable Children's and Families

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio

AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2019/20 - RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE  
Report of the Director of Council Management

- Update on progress against the External Auditors recommendations made within their 2019/20 Findings Report

EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S FINDINGS REPORT 2020/21  
Report of the External Auditor

- External Auditors findings for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

OMBUDSMAN REPORT CONCERNING A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE REFUSE AND RECYCLING SERVICE  
Report of the Director of the City Operations Directorate

- Inform Members about the Ombudsman's report, issued on 1 November 2021, regarding the Council's arrangements for the collection of recycling and refuse. Consider the action taken to address the Ombudsman's recommendations

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE  
Report of the Assistant Director Audit & Risk Management

- Update on the management of strategic risks and implementation of the Risk Management Framework report

## **Appendix A – List of Reports to Audit Committee by Date**

### **15th February 2022**

ASSURANCE SESSION - CABINET MEMBER  
VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES  
PORTFOLIO

Verbal update from the Cabinet Member  
Vulnerable Children's and Families Portfolio

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio

ASSURANCE SESSION - CABINET MEMBER  
HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

Verbal update from the Cabinet Member  
Homes and Neighbourhoods

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio

EXTERNAL AUDITORS PROGRESS REPORT  
Report of the External Auditors

- Progress update

PROCUREMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2023 -  
2028

Report of the Director of Council  
Management

- Inform the Members of the Council's decision regarding the procurement route for appointing an external auditor for the five financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28

### **29th March 2022**

BIRMINGHAM AUDIT – INTERNAL AUDIT  
PLAN 2022/23

Report of the Assistant Director Audit & Risk  
Management

- To gain approval of the 2022/23 proposed internal audit plan

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES FOR  
2021/22

Report of the Director of Management

- To seek approval to the adoption of accounting policies for the completion of the Council's accounts for 2021/22

GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE  
ASSURANCE - INFORMING THE AUDIT RISK  
ASSESSMENT - PUBLIC

Report of the Interim Chief Finance Officer

- Update on the responses from the Council's group companies on a questionnaire on their Audit Risk Assessment

### **26th April 2022**

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Report of the Assistant Director Audit and  
Risk Management

- Update Members on the management of strategic risks and implementation of the Risk Management Framework

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL -  
PROCUREMENT GOVERNANCE  
ARRANGEMENTS

Report of the Assistant Director -  
Procurement

- Update on the review of the Council's Procurement Governance Arrangements

## **Appendix A – List of Reports to Audit Committee by Date**

### **20th May 2022**

2020/21 AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT  
Report of the Director of Council  
Management

- Update on the findings from the External Auditors 2020/21 Auditors Annual Report and the Value for Money Audit

### **30th June 2022**

ASSURANCE SESSION - CABINET MEMBER  
TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO  
Verbal update from the Cabinet Member  
Transport with the Strategic Director City  
Operations, Assistant Director City  
Operations, Assistant Director Inclusive  
Growth, and the PFI Contract Manager

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio

BIRMINGHAM AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT  
2021/22  
Report of the Assistant Director Audit and  
Risk Management

- Annual opinion on the opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of internal control for the financial year ending March 2022.
- Summary of Internal Audit work completed during 2021/22.

EXTERNAL AUDITORS AUDIT PLAN  
Report of the External Auditors

- Overview of the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council.

LGSCO ADULTS SOCIAL CARE - DISABLED  
FACILITY GRANT COMPLAINT  
Report of the Director of the Adults and  
Social Care Directorate

- Inform Members about the Ombudsman's report, issued on 19 May 2022, regarding the Council's handling of home adaptations under the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).
- Consider the action taken to address the Ombudsman's recommendations

### **19th July 2022**

CANCELLED

### **28th September 2022**

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S COMPLAINTS  
FOLLOW-UP  
Verbal update from the Chief Executive

- Verbal update on the Corporate Plan 2022-2026 and the work being undertaken to strengthened performance management and operate as a single joined up organisation.

ASSURANCE SESSION – CABINET MEMBER  
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES  
PORTFOLIO  
Verbal update from the Cabinet Member  
Children, Young People & Families with the  
Director of Education & Skills and Head of  
Finance - Service Innovation

- Assurance on key areas within the Cabinet Member's portfolio



## Appendix A – List of Reports to Audit Committee by Date

### RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Report of the Assistant Director Audit and Risk Management

- Update on the management of strategic risks and implementation of the Risk Management Framework report

### PROGRESS ON NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

Report of the City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

- Update on areas of procurement nonconformity with governance process and procedure and mitigations and/or future steps to prevent recurrence.

### CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE SELF ASSESSMENT

Report of the Director of Council Management

- Set out the requirements of the CIPFA Financial Management Code and provide the results of the Council's self-assessment and further actions to be taken.

### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Report of the Director of Council Management

- Approval of the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the in the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.
- Agree the arrangements for the management of the items raised within the statement.

### DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Report of the Director of Council Management

- Brief Members on the legislative requirements for the approval and publication of the draft and audited Statement of Accounts 2021/22 and the process to support the Committee in considering and subsequently approving the audited Statement of Accounts 2021/22.

### EXTERNAL AUDITORS UPDATE

Report of the External Auditors

- Approach to Value for Money work for 2021/22.
- Extension of Value for Money work and reporting for 2021/22 until February 2023.