# Birmingham City Council

# Report to Audit Committee

**17 June 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title:** | **AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 25** |
| **Lead Member:** | Andrew Hardingham, Audit Committee Independent Chair |
| **Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** | Not Applicable |
| **Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair?** | Not Applicable |
| **Report Author:** | Andrew Hardingham, Audit Committee Independent Chair |
| **Authorised by:** | Deborah Carter-Hughes, Assistant Director Legal Services<br>deborah.carter-hughes@birmingham.gov.uk |
| **Is this a Key Decision?** | No<br>Forward Plan Reference: Not Applicable |
| **Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:** | Not Applicable |
| **Is this a Late Report?** | No |
| **Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:** | Not Applicable |
| **Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'** | Not Applicable |
| **If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised:** | Not Applicable |

**Wards:** Not Applicable

**Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?** No

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2024 - 25.

## 2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

2.1 Commissioners note the report.

## 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Committee:**

3.1 Agree to the Chair presenting the report to full Council and answering questions that Members may have.

3.2 Note and approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2024 – 25 as attached at Appendix A.

## 4 KEY INFORMATION

### Context

4.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, "The Audit Committee Member in a Local Authority" (October 2022), explains the purpose of an audit committee, its functions and considerations for independence, accountability and effectiveness.

4.2 Within the guidance, CIPFA recommends that each audit committee should prepare an annual report that provides assurance to all those charged with governance that it has fulfilled its purpose and can demonstrate its impact.

4.3 The annual report should consider the following:

4.3.1 The extent to which CIPFA Position Statement is followed in terms of:

– the size of the committee.

– structure and composition, including the number of independent members.

– reporting line and independence from other committees.

– its terms of reference include all the core functions of the committee.

4.3.2 Results of the committee's annual evaluation of its effectiveness and assurance over key indicators.

4.3.3 How the Committee has fulfilled its terms of reference, and the key issues escalated to the leadership team or other committees during the year.

4.3.4 Summarise the development work that will support the committee members.

4.4 The Audit Committee Annual Report is scheduled to be reported to the April 2025 City Council meeting.

## 5 RISK MANAGEMENT

It is recommended best practice for audit committees to produce an annual report to maintain transparency and accountability, account for its performance, explain its work and set out the assurance that has been received.

## 6 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

### Ward Councillor(s)

6.1 Not Applicable

### Overview and Scrutiny

6.2 Not Applicable

### Other

6.3 Not Applicable

## 7 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

### Finance and Best Value

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. An effective Audit Committee will help the Council in achieving best value and good governance. The Audit Committee Annual report is considered a key output for the Committee and essential in demonstrating how it has fulfilled its purpose and impact.

### Legal

7.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Equalities

7.3 There are no equality implications from the subject of this report.

### Procurement

7.4 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

### People Services

7.5 There are no staffing implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

**Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero**

7.6 There are no climate change, nature and net zero carbon implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

**Corporate Parenting**

7.7 There are no implications or opportunities in relation to the Corporate Parenting responsibility arising from the recommendation in this report.

**Other**

7.8 There are no other implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## 8 APPENDICES

8.1 APPENDIX A – AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUL REPORT 2024 - 25

## 9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 CIPFA - Audit Committees: practical guidance for local authorities and police (2022)