

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee
DATE	8 October 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Effectiveness Report
REPORT NUMBER	COM/20/140
DIRECTOR	
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Karen Finch
TERMS OF REFERENCE	GD 8.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the annual report of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee to enable Members to provide comment on the data contained within.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Committee:-

- 2.1 provide comments and observations on the data contained within the annual report; and
- 2.2 note the annual report of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

Annual Reports on Committee Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The annual committee effectiveness reports were introduced in 2018/19 following a recommendation from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as part of the Council's work towards securing that organisation's accreditation in governance excellence. The Terms of Reference set out that each Committee will review its own effectiveness against its Terms of Reference through the mechanism of the annual report.
- 3.2 The annual effectiveness reports were mentioned by CIPFA in their recent report which awarded the Mark of Excellence in Governance accreditation to Aberdeen City Council. CIPFA highlighted the implementation of the annual effectiveness reports as a matter of good practice in governance and were encouraged that, during consideration of the reports at Committee and Council, Members had made suggestions for improvements to the reports in future years.
- 3.3 As well as the CIPFA Accreditation, Committee Services also recently won SOLAR Administration Team of the Year 2020 in March 2020 in recognition of

the introduction of the annual committee effectiveness reports and the process which allows Committees to examine how they can improve the way they do business, while providing assurance that they are undertaking their role effectively.

- 3.3 Data from the annual effectiveness reports was used to inform the review of the Scheme of Governance, ensuring that Committee Terms of Reference were correctly aligned, and identifying any areas of the Terms of Reference which had not been used throughout the year in order that they could be reviewed and revised if necessary. The information from the effectiveness reports will also be used to feed into the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.4 The reports provide a mechanism for each committee to annually review its effectiveness, including data on attendance, any late reports, referrals to Council and the number of times officer recommendations were amended, and to ensure that it is following its Terms of Reference.
- 3.4 Similarly, recording the sections of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which apply to each report allows Members to be aware of the direct impact of any proposals before them on the LOIP, and gives a general overview at the end of each year of the number of reports which have had an impact on the LOIP outcomes. Officers also actively review the data gathered to ensure that it aligns to the Council's operating model and decisions taken by the Council throughout the year. This part of the annual report will be expanded for the next year of reporting to incorporate the changes to the outcomes section of the committee report template. That section now asks report authors to consider the implications of their report for the Council Delivery Plan, which incorporates the LOIP outcomes.
- 3.5 While the above is one section of the annual effectiveness report template which officers aim to amend for future reporting, any comments from Members on additional areas of data that should be considered would be welcomed to ensure that Members are presented with meaningful data.
- 3.6 The annual report for 2019/2020 is therefore appended for the Committee's consideration. Following consideration by the Committee, the report will be submitted to Council in December for noting.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial consequences from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	N/A		
Compliance	N/A		
Operational	N/A		
Financial	N/A		
Reputational	N/A		
Environment / Climate	N/A		

7. OUTCOMES

There are no links to the Council Delivery Plan, however the committee effectiveness annual reports link to the Scheme of Governance, by ensuring that each committee is fulfilling its Terms of Reference.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 1 April 2019 to 30 April 2020.

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Karen Finch
Committee Services Officer
kfinch@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522723