

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	2 December 2021
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 1 May 2020 to 31 October 2021
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/21/276
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie, Director of Commissioning
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Fraser Bell, Chief Officer - Governance
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Karen Finch
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	GD 8.5

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### 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 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 won SOLAR Administration Team of the Year 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.
- 3.4 Data from the annual effectiveness reports has been 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Similarly, recording the sections or stretch outcomes 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 stretch 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.
- 3.7 Any comments from Members on areas of data that should be considered would be welcomed to ensure that Members are presented with meaningful data.
- 3.8 The annual report for 2020/2021 is therefore appended for the Committee's consideration. It should be noted that the annual reporting period for 2020/21 is longer than previous years due to the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in a number of committee meetings being cancelled in the first half of 2020/21. Following consideration by the Committee, the report will be submitted to Full Council in December for noting.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications 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
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	N/A		
<b>Compliance</b>	Failure to submit this report would mean that the Council would not be complying with its instruction that all committees and Full Council receive such a report each year.	L	Council is given the opportunity to consider the reports and provide feedback on any amendments Members would wish to see in the content so that this can be taken on board for next year's Scheme of Governance review.
<b>Operational</b>	N/A		
<b>Financial</b>	N/A		
<b>Reputational</b>	N/A		
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	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
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	Full impact assessment not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 1 May 2020 to 31 October 2021.

## **11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

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