

**AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2019/20**

**Assessment key**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 5 | Clear evidence is available from a number of sources that the committee is actively supporting improvements across all aspects of this area. The improvements made are clearly identifiable. |
| 4 | Clear evidence from some sources that the committee is actively and effectively supporting improvement across some aspects of this area.   |
| 3 | The committee has had mixed experience in supporting improvement in this area. There is some evidence that demonstrates their impact but there are also significant gaps.                    |
| 2 | There is some evidence that the committee has supported improvements, but the impact of this support is limited.   |
| 1 | No evidence can be found that the audit committee has supported improvements in this area.   |

Areas where the audit committee can add value by supporting improvement	Examples of how the audit committee can add value and provide evidence of effectiveness	Self-evaluation, examples, areas of strength and weakness	Overall assessment: 5 – 1 See key above
Promoting the principles of good governance and their application to decision making.	<p>Supporting the development of a local code of governance.</p> <p>Providing robust review of the AGS and the assurances underpinning it.</p> <p>Working with key members/PCC and chief constable to improve their understanding of the AGS and their contribution to it.</p> <p>Supporting reviews/audits of governance arrangements.</p> <p>Participating in self-assessments of governance arrangements.</p> <p>Working with partner audit committees to review governance arrangements in partnerships.</p>	<p>Local Code of Governance</p> <p>Annual review &amp; approval of AGS.</p> <p>Review of progress against AGS action plan.</p> <p>Review of IA &amp; EA findings.</p>	3
Contributing to the development of an effective control environment.	<p>Actively monitoring the implementation of recommendations from auditors.</p> <p>Encouraging ownership of the internal control framework by appropriate managers.</p> <p>Raising significant concerns over controls with appropriate senior managers.</p>	<p>Review of progress against all IA recommendations.</p> <p>Robust challenge of IA findings.</p>	4
Supporting the establishment of arrangements for the governance of risk and for effective arrangements to manage risks.	<p>Reviewing risk management arrangements and their effectiveness, e.g. risk management benchmarking.</p> <p>Monitoring improvements.</p> <p>Holding risk owners to account for major/strategic risks.</p>	<p>Approval of RM Strategy.</p> <p>Review and challenge of RM updates.</p>	4
Advising on the adequacy of the assurance framework and considering whether assurance is deployed efficiently and effectively.	<p>Specifying its assurance needs, identifying gaps or overlaps in assurance.</p> <p>Seeking to streamline assurance gathering and reporting.</p> <p>Reviewing the effectiveness of assurance providers, e.g. internal audit, risk management, external audit.</p>	<p>Review of effectiveness of IA, EA, RM, Treasury Management &amp; AGS.</p>	3

Areas where the audit committee can add value by supporting improvement	Examples of how the audit committee can add value and provide evidence of effectiveness	Self-evaluation, examples, areas of strength and weakness	Overall assessment: 5 – 1 See key above
Supporting the quality of the internal audit activity, particularly by underpinning its organisational independence.	<p>Reviewing the audit charter and functional reporting arrangements.</p> <p>Assessing the effectiveness of internal audit arrangements, providing constructive challenge and supporting improvements.</p> <p>Actively supporting the quality assurance and improvement programme of internal audit.</p>	<p>Approval of IA Charter.</p> <p>Robust challenge of IA work.</p> <p>Annual assessment of effectiveness of IA.</p>	5
Aiding the achievement of the authority's goals and objectives through helping to ensure appropriate governance, risk, control and assurance arrangements.	<p>Reviewing how the governance arrangements support the achievement of sustainable outcomes.</p> <p>Reviewing major projects and programmes to ensure that governance and assurance arrangements are in place.</p> <p>Reviewing the effectiveness of performance management arrangements.</p>	<p>Review and approval of AGS process.</p> <p>Governance, risk, control and assurance arrangements reviewed.</p>	3
Supporting the development of robust arrangements for ensuring value for money.	<p>Ensuring that assurance on value for money arrangements is included in the assurances received by the audit committee.</p> <p>Considering how performance in value for money is evaluated as part of the AGS.</p>	<p>Review of IA &amp; EA VFM assurances.</p> <p>Review and approval of AGS process.</p>	3
Helping the authority to implement the values of good governance, including effective arrangements for countering fraud and corruptions risks.	<p>Reviewing arrangements against the standards set out in the <i>Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (CIPFA, 2014)</i>.</p> <p>Reviewing fraud risks and the effectiveness of the organisation's strategy to address those risks.</p> <p>Assessing the effectiveness of ethical governance arrangements for both staff and governors.</p>	<p>Review &amp; Approval of CF&amp;C Strategy &amp; RIPA policy.</p> <p>Review of arrangements for fraud risks to be developed.</p>	2

Areas where the audit committee can add value by supporting improvement	Examples of how the audit committee can add value and provide evidence of effectiveness	Self-evaluation, examples, areas of strength and weakness	Overall assessment: 5 – 1 See key above
Promoting effective public reporting to the authority's stakeholders and local community and measures to improve transparency and accountability.	<p>Improving how the authority discharges its responsibilities for public reporting; for example, better targeting at the audience, plain English.</p> <p>Reviewing whether decision making through partnership organisations remains transparent and publicly accessible and encourages greater transparency.</p> <p>Publishing an annual report from the committee.</p>	All meetings open to the public. Agendas and reports distributed to media.	2