

<b>Council Meeting</b>		<b>Agenda Item 10</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	11 November 2020	
<b>Report Title</b>	Audit Committee Annual Report 2019/20	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Roger Truelove – Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance	
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Nick Vickers – Chief Financial Officer	
<b>Head of Service</b>	Rich Clarke – Head of Audit Partnership	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Russell Heppleston – Deputy Head of Audit Partnership	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	
<b>Classification</b>	Open	
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. That the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2019/20 (appendix I) is <b>agreed</b> .	

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The report details how the Audit Committee has fulfilled its duties effectively during 2019/20. This report provides assurance to the Council that the Committee has monitored and addressed issues of governance, risk management and internal control throughout the year. This report seeks to provide additional assurance to support the Annual Governance Statement.

## **2 Background**

- 1.1 The Audit Committee is required to monitor audit activity (internal and external), review and comment on the effectiveness of the Council's regulatory framework and review and approve the Council's annual statements of accounts. This report sets out how this has been achieved during 2019/20.
- 1.2 The Audit Committee reviewed and approved the annual report at the meeting on 30 September 2020.

## **3 Proposal**

- 3.1 That the Audit Committee Annual Report (as attached in Appendix I) be agreed subject to any comments / discussion during the meeting.

## **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 The production and presentation of an annual report is required by this Committee's terms of reference.

4.2 Council could decide that they wish to no longer receive an annual report from the Audit Committee, however, this would not be advised. Oversight and monitoring of the Council’s activities is a vital part of effectiveness governance. Without an update from the Audit Committee, Council would not receive assurance on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to ensure good governance, risk management and internal control.

## 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The draft report was prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee prior to being considered and approved by the Audit Committee on 30 September 2020.

## 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	None identified at this stage.
Financial, Resource and Property	The role of the Audit Committee includes the review of the financial reports for the Council, including the approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts.
Legal and Statutory	None identified at this stage.
Crime & Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environmental Sustainability	None identified at this stage.
Health/Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The role of the Audit Committee requires it to consider the effectiveness of the Council’s risk management arrangements.
Equality/Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

## 7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Swale Annual Audit Committee Report 2019/20

**8 Background Papers**

8.1 None