



**Report for: GOVERNANCE, AUDIT,
RISK MANAGEMENT
and STANDARDS
COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	20 September 2023
Subject:	GARMS Committee Annual Report 2022/23
Responsible Officer:	Sharon Daniels – Interim Director of Finance & Assurance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – GARMS Committee Annual Report 2022/23 Appendix 2 – GARMS Committee Terms of Reference

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the draft GARMS Committee Annual Report 2022/23 for Full Council in compliance with the requirements of the GARMS Committees Terms of Reference.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) Consider the draft report attached at Appendix 1
- 2) Provide any comments/changes required to the report

- 3) Agree any recommendations the Committee may wish to make as part of the report.
- 4) Agree, subject to the above, for the report to be presented to Council for noting.

Section 2 – Report

- 2.1 The GARMS Committee's Terms of Reference requires the committee to:
 - report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.
 - report to full Council on an annual basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.
 - publish an annual report on the work of the committee.
- 2.2 The draft report for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 1. This is the second annual report and, taking on the committee's comments regarding the length of the first report, the detail explaining the committee's responsibility under each element of its remit has been removed with the intention of appending the committee's Terms of Reference instead to provide this detail. The detailed appendix listing all reports considered by the committee during the year has also been removed and replaced with a summary of reports presented and a flavour of the queries raised by members of the committee in fulfilling their remit.

Legal Implications

- 2.3 Completing an annual report is recommended in CIPFA practical guidance to Local Authorities.

Financial Implications

- 2.4 There are no financial implications to this report.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

- 2.5 If an Annual Report is not provided to Council the Committee will not be fulfilling their Terms of Reference and will not be complying with best practice as set out in the CIPFA guidance.

Equalities Implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

2.6 Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No (n/a)

Council Priorities

2.7 The GARMS Committee contributes to all the corporate priorities by enhancing the robustness of the control environment and governance mechanisms that directly or indirectly support these priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Sharon Daniels

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Date: 4 September 2023

Statutory Officer: Jessica Farmer

Interim Director of Legal & Governance, Monitoring Officer

Date: 4 September 2023

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: No, as it impacts on all Wards

Section 4 - Contact Details & Background Papers

Contact: Tracy Barnett, Interim Head of Internal Audit & Corporate Anti-Fraud

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations? N/A

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Consultation | No |
| 2. Priorities | No |