

**Annual Report of Harrow Council's Governance Audit, Risk
Management & Standards Committee**

2018/19

Chairs Forward

Anything the Chair would like to say about the committee, anything within the report he would like to draw attention to, any thanks etc.

Introduction

The cover the purpose of the report, i.e. to explain the Committee's purpose (as per the Terms of Reference); to summarise the work of the Committee undertaken in the given financial year; to conclude whether the committee has fulfilled its purpose; and to report on its own or internal audit's assessment of its effectiveness.

Terms of Reference and Membership

To cover the scope of the Committee's Terms of Reference, its membership within the given year and whether it adhered to its membership rules and the frequency of meetings e.g. usually 5 but only 4 during 2018/19 due to the local elections. It could also cover, in broad terms, the skills and experience of the members.

The Committee's Programme of Work

To provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Committee in the given year – possibly to include an appendix showing reports considered at each meeting. This would lead onto individual sections for each main area of the Committee's responsibilities:

Governance

The work of the Committee in reviewing the corporate governance arrangements including vfm arrangements and partnership governance, the review of the Annual Governance Statement prior to approval and the monitoring of agreed actions to close significant governance gaps.

Risk Management

The quarterly review of the Corporate Risk Register.

Countering Fraud and Corruption

The Committee's monitoring of the counter-fraud strategy, the approval of the annual fraud plan and the team's performance against the plan and key achievements in terms of fraud's detected and successfully investigated.

Internal Audit

The Committee's approval of the Internal Audit Charter and its review of its independence, the approval of the internal audit plan and any significant changes made to the plan during the year. The HIA's overall audit opinion.

External Audit

An overview of the relationship with the External Auditors, the reports considered etc.

Financial Reporting

Work undertaken by the Committee in reviewing the annual statement of accounts prior to approval and considering the External Auditor's report on issues arising from the audit of the accounts, highlighting anything of significance.

Treasury Management

The Committee's review of the Treasury Management Strategy and the monitoring of progress.

Health & Safety

The work undertaken by the Committee to review the Council's Health & Safety arrangements and oversee progress.

Standards

The committee's role in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors and an overview of Standards items considered during the year.

Conclusion

On whether the Committee has fulfilled its purpose/roles and responsibilities as outlined in its agreed Terms of Reference.

Recommendations

Any recommendations the Committee may wish to make.