

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

Date of Meeting:	15 July 2024
Subject:	GARMS Committee Annual Report 2023/24
Responsible Officer:	Sharon Daniels – Strategic Director of Finance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – GARMS Committee Annual Report 2023/24 Appendix 2 – GARMS Committee Terms of Reference

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

1.1 This report sets out the draft GARMS Committee Annual Report 2023/24 for Full Council in compliance with the requirements of the GARMS Committee's Terms of Reference.

Recommendations:

- 1.2 The Committee is requested to:
- Consider the draft report attached at Appendix 1
 - Provide any comments/changes required to the report
 - Agree any recommendations the Committee may wish to make as part of the report
 - Agree, subject to the above, for the report to be presented to Council on 26 September 2024.

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 2023/24 is attached at Appendix 1.

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

Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer

Date: 5 July 2024

Statutory Officer: Caroline Eccles

On behalf of the Director of Legal & Governance, Monitoring Officer

Date: 8 July 2024

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

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