

<b>Committee(s):</b> Ordinary Council	<b>Date:</b> 25 March 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs report for Audit and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Cllr Charles Nolan	
<b>Report of:</b> Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Director of Corporate Resources	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

There has been two Audit and Scrutiny Committees since the last Ordinary Council.

### **Audit Results of Statement of Accounts 2018/19 & Annual Audit Letter**

The Council's External Auditors, Ernst & Young have completed their audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2018/19. The report presented their conclusions and the final Financial Statements and subsequently their Annual Audit Letter which summarised and concluded the Audit process.

External Audit issued an unqualified audit opinion for the Statement of Accounts 2018/19 and an unqualified value for money conclusion.

### **External Audit Plan 2019/20**

The External Audit Plan set out how the Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young intend to carry out their responsibilities in auditing the final accounts for the financial year 2019/20.

### **Internal Audit Progress Report**

The report was intended to inform the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of progress made against the 2019/20 internal audit plan.

The following reports have been finalised since the last Committee:

- Housing benefits (2019/20) (Moderate/Moderate)
- General Data Protection Regulations Operational (2019/20) (Substantial/Substantial)
- Leisure Services (2019/20) (Moderate/Substantial)

Members also reviewed the latest position on the follow up recommendations from previous audits.

### **Internal Audit Plan 2020/2021**

Members were presented with a report that outlined the Internal Audit Operational Plan for 2020/21, three year Strategic Plan and Internal Audit Charter which was approved.

## **Risk Management**

Members were updated on the status of the Council's Strategic Risk Register and High Operational Risks. The latest risk registers presented:

EU Exit risk on the Strategic Risk Register had been decreased all other risk scores have remained the same since the recent Committee in January.

Of the high-level operational risks, the risk scores have remained the same from the recent Committee in January.

## **Formal Complaints & Performance Indicator Working Group**

Members received a report and recommendations of the Formal Complaints and Performance Indicators Working Group for consideration by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

## **Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20**

The Constitution requires that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee agrees its Scrutiny work programme at each meeting of the Committee.

The following items considered to be reported to the committee as part of its Scrutiny Work Programme.

- Local Development Plan
- Performance Indicators and Formal Complaints

Following a member request it was agreed that a presentation is given by SEPP, along with a report from legal officers reviewing alternative options for on street parking in the borough.