



**Open Report on behalf of Councillor Mrs S Rawlins,  
Chairman of the Audit Committee**

Report to:	<b>County Council</b>
Date:	<b>11 December 2020</b>
Subject:	<b>Audit Committee Annual Report 2020</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Annual Report of its Audit Committee. The Annual Report helps show how the Audit Committee provides a vital role in promoting good governance and accountability in the Council.

The report also gives key headlines of results of work completed during the year.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Council notes the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2020

## **1. Background**

Audit committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework – they provide independent assurance on the adequacy of:

- the risk management framework
- the internal control environment
- integrity of financial reporting
- annual governance statement processes'

Our Audit Committee has undertaken a self-assessment against good practice and provides an annual report to show how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities.

A copy of the Annual Report is at Appendix A of this report.

The statutory deadline for publishing our audited accounts for 2019/20 is 30 November 2020. Whilst we had every expectation that we would be able to meet this timescale, unfortunately will not be able to do this due to an outstanding query from our external auditors - raised after the Audit Committee meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

To meet with the relevant regulations, we will instead be publishing our latest accounts on the Council's website **without** an audited opinion, together with a notice explaining the reasons for this.

**2. Conclusion**

The Audit Committee has worked well with Officers to maintain effective governance arrangements. It has provided independent insight and challenge on the Council's strategic risks and key activities. This has, in our view, helped effective decision making, accountability and transparency.

**3. Legal Comments:**

The Audit Committee Annual Report will provide assurance to the Council as to whether the Audit Committee is fulfilling its Terms of Reference as laid down by the Council. The recommendation is lawful and within the remit of the full Council.

**4. Resource Comments:**

There are no financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendation in the report.

**5. Consultation**

**a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

N/A

**b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

**c) Scrutiny Comments**

N/A

**d) Risks and Impact Analysis**

The Audit Committee Annual Report is a key part of the Council's overall risk management and internal control processes. The Committee objectively examines and evaluates the adequacy of the control environment through the reports it receives - seeking assurance around improvement actions.

**6. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Audit Committee Annual Report - 2020

## 7. Background Papers

No Background Papers within the meaning of section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 have been used in the preparation of this Report.

Draft Audit Committee Annual Report - 2020	<a href="https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&amp;MId=5016&amp;Ver=4">https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&amp;MId=5016&amp;Ver=4</a>
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