

Report Number: SWT 133/22

# Somerset West and Taunton Council

## Special Full Council – 29 September 2022

### Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference update

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager and Monitoring Officer

#### 1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an updated version of the Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 The reason for the update is to reflect changes recommended in the SWAP Baseline Fraud Maturity Report, which went to the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 12 September 2022.

#### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council approves the updated Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee.

#### 3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Failure to have an up to date Constitution could result in a negative opinion and recommendations arising from Internal and External Audits, as well as an action being included in the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

#### 4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 The Council are asked to consider and approve amendments to the Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference. This report was considered and endorsed by the Audit and Governance Committee on 12 September 2022. The revised Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix A (with the proposed changes being set out in ***bold italics***).
- 4.2 The key changes are:
  - Adding in the Committee's responsibility for approving the Council's Annual Fraud Plan (as per the SWAP Baseline Fraud Report)

- Adding in the Committee's responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the Council's performance against the Annual Fraud Plan – half yearly (as per the SWAP Baseline Fraud Report)
- Reflecting that the Risk Management Strategy is now called the Risk and Opportunity Management Strategy
- Reflecting that the suite of Fraud Policies now includes the Anti-Money Laundering Policy

4.3 This come before Council as the Constitution sets out that the Council exercises the function of adopting and changing the Constitution.

## **5 Links to Corporate Strategy**

5.1 Having a robust governance framework and Constitution overarches everything that the Council does, including the delivery of the Corporate Strategy.

## **6 Finance / Resource Implications**

6.1 None arising from this report

### **Unitary Council Financial Implications and S24 Direction Implications**

6.2 None arising from this report

## **7 Legal Implications**

7.1 None arising from this report

## **8 Climate, Ecology and Sustainability Implications**

8.1 None arising from this report

## **9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications**

9.1 None arising from this report

## **10 Equality and Diversity Implications**

10.1 None arising from this report

## **11 Social Value Implications**

11.1 None arising from this report

## **12 Partnership Implications**

12.1 None arising from this report

## **13 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

13.1 None arising from this report

## **14 Asset Management Implications**

14.1 None arising from this report

## **15 Data Protection Implications**

15.1 None arising from this report

## **16 Consultation Implications**

16.1 None arising from this report

### **Democratic Path:**

- **Audit and Governance Committee – Yes, 12 September 2022. The Committee resolved to recommend that the Council adopt the amended Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee**
- **Executive – No**
- **Full Council – Yes, Next meeting**

**Reporting Frequency: Ad-hoc**

### **List of Appendices (background papers to the report)**

Appendix A	Audit & Governance Committee Terms of Reference
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### **Contact Officers**

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