

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	
DATE OF DECISION	28 November 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25	
DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal & Governance	
LEAD OFFICER:	Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out for the information of the Audit and Governance Committee the most recent version of the 2024/25 work programme for the Committee.
- 1.2 This follows on from a report considered by the Committee at its meeting on 18 July 2024, which agreed the work programme for the year ahead.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons given in this report, the Audit and Governance Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To consider and approve the Audit & Governance Committee's Work Programme for 2024/25, Appendix A.
- 2.2 To identify any other items that the Committee require to be added to the Work Programme for 2024/25.
- 2.3 To note the Committee's Assurance Mapping Document, Appendix B

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report supports the role and responsibility of the Committee in reviewing its work programme.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 The process to set the 2024-25 Audit and Governance Committee Work Programme commenced in April 2024. The work programme was drafted by Democratic Services officers in

collaboration with lead officers and utilised key documents such as the Committee's Terms of Reference, Internal Audit Reports, Annual Governance Statement, Financial Performance Monitoring Reports, the Corporate Risk Register, the previous year's Committee Work Programme, Committee Action Log and Committee Assurance Mapping Document to populate the meeting agendas for the year ahead.

- 4.2 The Committee received the draft 2024/25 work programme at the [11 April 2024](#) meeting for initial review and input. The committee considered a finalised version at the first meeting of the new municipal year on [18 July 2024](#).
- 4.3 The work programme attached at Appendix A sets out the reports currently scheduled for the future Audit and Governance Committee meetings for the municipal year 2024/25.
- 4.4 The work programme needs to be flexible and be amended as appropriate to be responsive to any change in circumstances. It will remain as a standing item on all Audit and Governance Committee agendas throughout the year, allowing for oversight, review and additional reporting requests by the Committee.
- 4.5 Quarterly Corporate Risk Register reporting is scheduled on the 2024/25 Committee work programme. This ensures the Committee meets its requirements as identified within the Committee Terms of Reference. These quarterly risk reviews of all corporate risks have happened or are scheduled for 18-Jul-2024, 19-Sep-2024, 30-Jan-2025, 24-Apr-2025.
- 4.6 'Risk Deep Dives' continue to be scheduled on the Committee work programme. The topics of which are identified and requested by the Committee upon review of the Corporate Risk Register. The Committee received a 'Risk Deep Dive' presentation on the risk related to the switch off of the Public Switched Telephone Network at the [19 September 2024](#) meeting. The Committee requested follow up reporting on the issue and this has been scheduled into the work programme for January 2024. The next presentation requested by Members is regarding the risk of Homelessness demand pressures.
- 4.7 Future 'Risk Deep Dive' topics will be identified and requested by the Committee upon review of the Corporate Risk Register.
- 4.8 Following the 18 July 2024 Audit & Governance Committee, the Corporate risk register is now published on the Council's Transparency pages.
- 4.9 The Committee's Assurance Mapping Document (Appendix B) was developed in 2023 and is presented alongside the Committee Work Programme at each meeting. The document provides a framework for the Committee Members to satisfy and/or challenge the sources of assurance and reporting available to ensure the Committee is fulfilling its function as per the Committee Terms of Reference.
- 4.10 A Committee refresher training is planned to take place on 26 November 2024. This session will include an opportunity for the Committee to review its Assurance Mapping Document alongside the current work programme.
- 4.11 Scrutiny & Overview Committee are now using the contents of the corporate risk register to inform their own work programme. To support this a risk management awareness session was delivered by the Head of Anti-Fraud, Risk & Insurance on the 9 September 2024 to all Members of Scrutiny & Overview Committee to enable them to make the best use of the corporate risk

register content.

- 4.12 The Chair of Scrutiny and Overview Committee will continue to be invited to attend all meetings of the Audit & Governance Committee where a 'Risk Deep Dive' is on the agenda. This promotes information sharing between the Committees and supports efficient working by avoiding duplications in the respective work programmes.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 No other options considered. It is a governance requirement of the Committee to set and agree its Work Programme annually.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This Work Programme is subject to consultation with Members of the Audit and Governance Committee.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Mayor's Business Plan - Priority 4: Ensure good governance is embedded and adopt best practice.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Comments approved by Allister Bannin, Director of Finance (Deputy s151), 17/11/2024.

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 provide that a local authority is responsible for ensuring a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk. The work undertaken by the Committee supports the Council in fulfilling these requirements. The work programme enables the Committee to ensure that there is sufficient assurance over governance, risk and control and that the arrangements are effective and are embedded, monitored and consistently complied with.

- 8.2.2 Comments approved by The Principal Lawyer Corporate Law and Litigation (19.11.2024)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.3.1 As a Public Sector Authority we will be required to promote the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED) as detailed below.

- (i) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- (ii) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (iii) Foster or encourage good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 8.3.2 Failure to meet these requirements may result in the Council being exposed to costly, time consuming and reputation-damaging legal challenges.
- 8.3.3 An EQIA is not required as this report does not affect service delivery and sets out the future work programme for the Audit and Governance Committee.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix A: 2024-25 Work Programme Audit and Governance Committee

Appendix B: Committee Assurance Mapping Document