

Please see below replacement Appendix 3 to Agenda Item 6: Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 for the Audit Committee on 19 November 2024

**APPENDIX 3 – SUMMARY OF MEMBER COMMENTS AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE RESPONSE**

Please note that these comments reflect discussions and questions/response to Audit Committee (ref. 18 July 2024) and individual Committee member contributions rather than a resolution of the Committee.

ISSUE	RESPONSE (Please note that page references reflect numbers in this Appendix 1)
<p>Response from Cllr. Horgan</p> <p>Include reference to the decision to appoint an independent lay person onto the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Include reference to the publication of the first Annual Report from the Audit Committee to Council.,</p>	<p>Agreed (ref. Appendix 1 p23)</p> <p>Agreed (ref Appendix 1 p23)</p>
<p>Response from Stephen Joyce, Independent Lay Member</p> <p>Acknowledging and understanding the Employee Code of Conduct (ref. Principle A).</p> <p>Availability of Whistleblowing policy to non-employees of the Council (ref. Principle A).</p>	<p>See p3 including publication on intranet.</p> <p>Confirmed (ref. Appendix 1 p3).</p> <p>Agreed (ref. p4).</p>

How does the Council/MO ensure new applicable laws and regulations are picked up and complied with? (ref. Principle A).	Agreed – referenced letter of assurance from Monitoring Officer (ref. p4).
Managing the conflict between absolute legal compliance and proportionality/value for money (ref. Principle A).	
Social media policy and elected members (ref. Principle A).	Updated current status (ref. Principle A focus and further development for 2024/25 p5).
Communications with businesses and charity/volunteer sector (ref. Principle B).	Updated current activity (ref. Principle B p9/10).
Ensuring wide access to internet services and providing support (ref. Principle E).	Detailed response (ref. amended Principle E p20). See p12.
Net zero – informing the MTFS effectively (ref. Principle C).	
Collaboration with key strategic partners (ref. Principle C).	Reference to CPCA (Principle C ref. p8)
Highlighting where material capital/revenue underspends affect performance and outcomes (ref. Principle D).	Agreed (ref. Principle D p15).
Member development/needs (ref. Principle E).	See p18 and p19.
Staff access to independent counselling service (ref. Principle E).	Confirmed (ref. Principle E p20).
Modern online payment methods available to service users (ref. Principle E).	Amended to include list (ref. Principle E p20).

<p>Governance – the Council’s Risk Register (ref. Principle F).</p> <p>Frequency of testing the Business Continuity Plan (ref. Principle F).</p> <p>Timetable for the review of CIPFA FM Code (ref. Principle F).</p> <p>Reference to appointment of Audit Committee lay member in relation to F. Further Development and G. Audit etc. (ref Principle F and Principle G Appendix 2).</p>	<p>The Council’s Corporate Risk Register is reported to the Audit Committee on six monthly basis.</p> <p>Reviewed every 2 years (currently under review) (ref. Appendix 1 p23).</p> <p>CIPFA FM Code will be reviewed by self assessment in Summer 2025 (ref. Principle F Focus and further development for 2024/25 ref. p26).</p> <p>Agreed (ref. p26).</p>
<p>Need to update External Audit section in the review of effectiveness to reflect current status.</p>	<p>Agreed – confirmation that 2022/23 Statement of Accounts remain currently unaudited. (ref. p33).</p>