

**Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

**20 October 2015**

**Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2014/15**

**1. Summary Statement**

- 1.1 The Audit Committee was established by the Council in 2006 and its purpose is to:-
- provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment;
  - provide independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment;
  - oversee the financial reporting process.
- 1.2 In pursuance of its actions for improvement identified in its self assessment exercise, the Committee approved the principle of producing an Annual Report.
- 1.3 The attached annual report highlights the major pieces of work undertaken by the Audit Committee during the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

Further details are attached for your information

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Audit Committee Annual Report 2014/15, as now submitted, be received.

**Melanie Dudley**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

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**Director – Governance**

**Contact Officer**

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**3. Strategic Resource Implications**

3.1 There are no strategic resource implications arising from this report. The implications for resources arising from any matters considered by the Committee are included within the relevant reports to the Committee and referred to in the main body of the Annual Report as necessary.

**4. Legal and Statutory Implications**

4.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy recognises Audit Committees as a core component of effective governance.

4.2 Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution sets out the framework for the Audit Committee, specifying its terms of reference, general role and specific functions.

**5. Implications for the Scorecard Priorities**

5.1 The Audit Committee work programme supports the development and progress of the Council’s Scorecard Priorities.

**6. Background Details**

6.1 The Annual Report 2014/15 is attached.