



Committee and Date

Council

18<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Item

**14**

Public

## **ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT TO COUNCIL 2012/13**

**Responsible Officer** James Walton

e-mail: James.walton@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 255011

### **1. Summary**

Attached to this report is the Audit Committee's Annual Assurance Report to Council for 2012/13. This provides Council with an independent assurance report that the Council has in place adequate and effective risk management and internal control systems that can be relied upon and which contribute to the high corporate governance standards that this Council expects and has consistently maintained.

### **2. Recommendations**

Council is asked to consider and comment on the contents of the Annual Assurance report for 2012/13 before recommending accepting this report.

## **REPORT**

### **3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 3.1 The Audit Committee's Annual Assurance Report is part of the overall internal control arrangements and risk management process. The Committee objectively examines and evaluates the adequacy of the control environment through the reports it receives and in turn can provide assurances to Council on its internal control systems that inform the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.2 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. There are no direct environmental, equalities, consultation or climate change requirements or consequences of this proposal.

### **4. Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

## 5. Background

- 5.1 A key part of the Audit Committee’s role is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated internal control environment. The Committee oversees the financial reporting process and it also provides independent scrutiny of the authority’s financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority’s exposure to risk and weakens the control environment.
- 5.2 The Audit Committee has a well established role within the Council and it is important that an Annual Assurance report based on the work of the Committee is produced and recommended to Council. In compiling this assurance report, information provided at the Audit Committee meeting on 21 June 2013 has also been taken into account.
- 5.3 Attached to this report is the Audit Committee Annual Assurance report to Council for 2012/13 for members to consider and comment on (**Appendix A**).

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Draft Internal Annual Audit Plan 2012/13 - Audit Committee 22 March 2012

Internal Audit Plan 2012/13 - Half year report - Audit Committee 7 December 2012

Internal Audit Plan 2012/13 – Third quarter report- Audit Committee 14 February 2013

Internal Audit Annual Report 2012/13 – Audit Committee 21 June 2013

Draft Audit Committee Annual Assurance report - Audit Committee 21 June 2013

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Keith Barrow, Leader of the Council and Brian Williams, Chairman of Audit Committee

**Local Member**

N/A

**Appendices**

Appendix A - Audit Committee Annual Assurance Report 2012/13