LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	**WARDS** All
REPORT TITLE Annual Review of the Committee's Effectiveness	
REPORT OF Executive Director Corporate Services	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Audit and Corporate Governance Committee	**DATE** 7th July 2026

Summary of Report

The report provides an outcome of an annual review of the Committee's effectiveness in 2025-26.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information

No documents that require listing were used in the production of this report.

Contact Officer

Daniel Omisore
Director of Finance
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG
Telephone: 020 7974 5199
Email: Daniel.Omisore@camden.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider and approve the report.

Signed: As agreed by the Director of Finance

Date: 22nd June 2026

1. Purpose of report

1.1. This report provides a review of the Committee’s effectiveness and underlines the Committee’s key role in supporting the delivery of the Council’s strategic priorities by seeking assurance that risk management, internal control and governance arrangements are operating effectively.

1.2. This report fulfils the responsibility under the Committee’s Terms of Reference

- To undertake an annual review of the effectiveness and the work of the Committee.

2. Review of effectiveness

2.1. Local government bodies are expected to meet high standards of governance and accountability. An audit committee provides a forum to support and monitor the authority in the areas of governance, risk management, external audit, internal audit, financial reporting, and other related areas. There are a number of statutory duties, regulations, and standards relating to financial reporting, governance and audit that the authority must comply with, and an audit committee is best placed to oversee these functions.

2.2 The audit committee should support the authority in establishing, maintaining, and improving effective governance, risk management, and internal control arrangements. These arrangements enable the authority to deliver against its objectives and improve its performance. The audit committee therefore helps the authority to fulfil its responsibilities for accountability to the local community, and meet the expectations of partners, regulators, and other stakeholders.

2.3 CIPFA’s recommended practice is for audit committees to review and assess themselves annually or to seek an external review.

2.4 The effectiveness review for 2023-24 entailed a comprehensive self-assessment session in the form of a workshop, which was facilitated by a representative from CIPFA in April 2024. During this session, the Committee was asked to evaluate its performance across nine key areas, using CIPFA’s checklist to assess the impact and effectiveness of the audit committee. As a result of the self-assessment exercise, a number of recommendations were made. These recommendations were presented to the Committee as in progress in June 2024 and as fully implemented in July 2025. Therefore no recommendations remained outstanding in 2025-26.

2.5 Given the comprehensive self-assessment in April 2024, the review of effectiveness in 2024-25 entailed an update on open recommendations and a short survey to assess the Committee’s effectiveness. In 2025-26 a further streamlined approach has been undertaken. This entailed a short survey which asked members to evaluate the Committee’s effectiveness. The survey included three questions as follows:

- Was the Committee effective in discharging its responsibilities in 2025-26;
- Are there areas that worked particularly well in 2025-26;
- Are there areas where the effectiveness of the Committee could be enhanced in the coming year.

2.6 Five responses were received with the key themes outlined below:

i. All respondents agreed the Committee was effective in discharging its responsibilities.

ii. Multiple respondents highlighted the Chair as effective in facilitating discussion.

iii. Multiple respondents highlighted the clarity of reports and members' effective scrutiny of reports;

iv. Risk deep dives were highlighted as a key strength, improving oversight of principal risks.

Suggested enhancements

v. Some agendas were overly dense, limiting time for discussion.

vi. Suggested improvements in relation to new member inductions as well as working with Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Committees.

2.7 Officers will give consideration to the suggested enhancements in the coming year. Overall the survey, read in conjunction with the Committee's workplan for 2025-26, indicated a general view from the Committee that it is discharging its mandate consistent with its Terms of Reference. as well as the CIPFA publication: Audit Committees, Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2022 edition). The guidance also sets out how the Audit Committee should consider its role alongside the work of other committees within the Council including Scrutiny Committees.

3. Finance comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

3.1 The Executive Director Corporate Services has been consulted and comments are incorporated within the body of the report.

4. Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor

4.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add.

5. Environmental implications

5.1 There are no known environmental implications arising from this report.

End