

Council/Committee:	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Report Title	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee – Annual Report 2024/25
Date of Meeting	18 September 2025
Report Author	Peter Farrow Head of Audit
Lead Officer	Alex Thompson Executive Director of Finance and Transformation
Wards Affected	All
Appendices (if any)	1. Audit and Risk Assurance Committee – Annual Report 2024/25

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report summarises the main areas of work undertaken by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee during 2024/25.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to:-
- Approve the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee before it is presented to a future meeting of the Council.

3. Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 To inform the Committee of the contents of the Committee's Annual Report.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee of the contents of their Annual Report for 2024/25. As such, there is no alternative option.

5 Context and Key Issues

- 5.1 The main purpose of this report is to summarise the work undertaken by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee during 2024/25.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or resource implications directly arising as a result of this report.

7. Legal and Governance Implications

- 7.1 The Council is not obliged by law to appoint an Audit Committee, but this course of action has been taken in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

8. Risks

- 8.1 The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is a key component of the Council's risk management framework.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 9.1 It was not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 None.

11. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

- 11.1 This report will support the delivery of the following Strategic Themes:-

- Growing up in Sandwell
- Living in Sandwell
- Healthy in Sandwell
- Thriving Economy in Sandwell
- One Council One Team Approach.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is a key component of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control framework.