

Audit, Best Value and Community Services (ABVCS) Scrutiny Committee



Future work at a glance

Updated: May 2014

*This list is updated after each meeting of the scrutiny committee
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Items that appear regularly at committee	
Internal Audit Progress Reports	Summary of quarterly key audit findings, highlighting significant control issues and reporting on delivery of the audit plan and internal audit services' performance against performance indicators.
Strategic risk monitoring log	The latest version of the County Council's strategic risk register.
The Council's Forward Plan	<p>The latest version of the Council's Forward Plan is included on each scrutiny committee agenda. The Forward Plan lists all the key County Council decisions that are to be taken within the next few months together with contact information to find out more. It is updated monthly.</p> <p>The purpose of doing this is to help committee Members identify important issues for more detailed scrutiny <i>before</i> key decisions are taken. This has proved to be significantly more effective than challenging a decision once it has been taken. As a last resort, the call-in procedure is available if scrutiny Members think a Cabinet or Lead Member decision has been taken incorrectly.</p> <p>Requests for further information about individual items on the Forward Plan should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman, ideally before a scrutiny committee meeting.</p>

Items that appear regularly at committee

Committee work programme	This provides an opportunity for the committee to review the scrutiny work programme for future meetings and to highlight any additional issues they wish to add to the programme.
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<i>Future committee agenda items</i>		<i>Presenting officer</i>
5 September 2014		
Review of the Annual Governance Report and Statement of Accounts	Report of the external auditors following their audit of the Council's statutory accounts. It allows the committee to review the issues raised and assess the management response.	Chief Financial Officer or Chief Operating Officer and external auditors
Reconciling policy, performance and resources (RPPR)	To begin scrutiny's involvement in the RPPR process. To establish a RPPR Board of members to undertake more detailed investigations as required.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Treasury Management Half Year Report and Outturn Report	<p>The Code of Practice for Treasury Management requires the Council to review its treasury management performance. The report will set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the original strategy agreed for 2014/15 and the economic factors affecting this strategy in the first six months of this year. • The treasury management activity during the first six months. • The performance to date of the Prudential Indicators, which relate to the Treasury function and compliance within limits. • The outturn report 	Marion Kelly, Chief Financial Officer
Report on new CIPFA guidance	A report to brief the Committee on the new Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance for audit committees.	Russell Banks, Head of Assurance

Future committee agenda items		Presenting officer
18 November 2014		
Annual update on usage of Agency Staff	Annual update on the usage of agency staff at East Sussex County Council and progress on establishing the bank of casual staff.	Kevin Foster, Chief Operating Officer
Procurement at East Sussex County Council	<p>A report containing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an update on the progress towards achieving the targets for apprenticeships and local area spend; • the savings tracker that Procurement and Finance Divisions are developing that will quantify the monetary value of the savings that the Procurement Division has helped to deliver for other Departments 	Laura Langstaff, Head of Procurement
17 March 2015		
External Audit Plan 2014/15	Sets out in detail the work to be carried out by the Council's external auditors.	Chief Financial Officer and external auditors
External Audit Report on Grants Claim Certification	External auditors are required to certify certain grant claims; this is an annual report summarising that grant work and highlights the key issues arising.	Chief Financial Officer and external auditors
External Audit Plan for East Sussex Pension Fund 2014/15	To consider and comment upon the External Audit Plan for the East Sussex Pension Fund for 2014/15.	Chief Financial Officer and external auditors
Reconciling policy, performance and resources (RPPR)	Update on outcomes from the 2014/15 process and lessons to take forward.	Paul Dean, Scrutiny Manager
June 2015		
Internal Audit Services – Annual Report and Opinion 2014/15	Provides an overall opinion on the Council's framework of internal control; summarises the main audit findings and performance against key indicators.	Russell Banks, Head of Assurance

<i>Future committee agenda items</i>		<i>Presenting officer</i>
Internal Audit Strategy 2015/16 and Annual Plan	Sets out the internal audit strategy, including key themes and detailed coverage across departments for the year ahead.	Russell Banks, Head of Assurance
Monitoring Officer's Annual Review of the Corporate Governance Framework	Sets out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and includes an improvement plan for the coming year, and the corporate assurance statement which will form part of the statement of accounts.	Philip Baker, Assistant Chief Executive

Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway	Date available
<p>Agile Working Reference Group Reference Group comprising Cllrs Blanch, Barnes, Keeley, Standley and Whetstone that meets with key officers to comment on the progress of the Agile Programme after key stages in the Programme.</p> <p>Public Health Seminar A seminar to provide a detailed briefing on the public health performance indicators and public health outcomes framework.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>June 2014</p>

Potential future scrutiny work (Proposals and ideas for future scrutiny topics appear here)
<p>Library and Information services Future updates (as necessary) on initiatives for income generation including sales, library fines and franchising.</p> <p>Future of Communications team in East Sussex County Council A report on the proposed future of the Communications Team.</p> <p>The commissioning of public health services The Committee to be kept informed of the Public Health Department's commissioning programme, such as the tranche reviews.</p>

Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas only when proposed for scrutiny by committee members)		Date available
Performance monitoring	<p>Performance monitoring is an integral part of scrutiny. The committee is alerted to the relevant quarterly reports that Cabinet and lead Members receive. Members can then suggest matters for scrutiny to investigate in more detail.</p> <p>Achievement against individual performance targets is assessed as either 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' ('RAG'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green' means that the performance measure is on target to be achieved • 'Amber' means that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance measure by the end of the year • 'Red' means that the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable. <p>The 'Red' and 'Amber' indicators also include further commentary and the details of any proposed corrective action.</p> <p>Requests for further information about individual items in the performance reports should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman.</p>	Every quarter
Carbon Reduction	To consider progress in preparing for the carbon reduction commitment energy saving scheme and to reduce energy consumption.	Annually

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