

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Head of Service:	Andrew Bircher, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Report Author:	Will Mace, Corporate Governance & Strategy Manager
Wards affected:	(All Wards)
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Committee Annual Report 2025-2026

Summary

This report presents the Annual Report of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee 2025-2026 in accordance with the requirement of Paragraph 7.2 of Annex 4.6 of the Council's Operating Framework. It covers the work of the Committee between March 2025 and February 2026, and following agreement by the Committee, will be submitted to the next available agenda for Full Council.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the Annual Report of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee 2025-2026 (Appendix 1) and recommend submission to Full Council.**
- (2) Confirm the effectiveness of Internal Audit as per Section 2.7 of Appendix 1.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Paragraph 7.2 of [Annex 4.6](#) of the Council's Operating Framework requires the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to report annually to the Full Council on its workings, recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
- 1.2 This recommendation arises from the updated Internal Audit Code of Practice.

2 Background

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- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the draft Annual Report 2025-2026, which looks back on the work of the Committee between March 2025 and February 2026. This meeting (19 March 2026) will be included in the next year's Annual Report 2026-2027.
- 2.2 The Annual Report 2025-2026, Appendix 1, will be presented to the next meeting of Full Council.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No direct impacts from this report.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No direct impacts from this report.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No direct impacts from this report.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 If committee members have a detailed question(s) on particular elements of this report (including its appendices), it is requested that these be submitted in advance of the meeting where possible, to enable officers time to prepare complete answers.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications in this report.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** We welcome the Annual Report of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for 2025/2026. The Committee continues to play a vital role in providing independent oversight, assurance, and constructive challenge across the Council's governance, risk management and internal control environment.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

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6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: N/A
- **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.2 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No direct impacts from this report.
- 6.3 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No direct implications from this report.
- 6.4 **Partnerships:** No direct impact on partnerships from this report.
- 6.5 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** No direct implications from this report.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

Annual Report of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee 2024-2025, 22 July 2025, Council. Online available <https://democracy.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=146&MIId=1789> [last accessed 13/02/2026].

Other papers:

- As referenced in Appendix 1, inc:

The Financial Strategy Advisory Group- Annual Treasury Management Report, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, 27 March 2025. Online available: [Epsom and Ewell Democracy](#) [last accessed 13/02/2026]