

**Audit Committee Chair's Annual Report****Report by John Blair, Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the Audit Committee Chair's Annual Report for 2015/2016.

**2 Background**

**2.1** The Chair's report has been prepared in accordance with the Audit Committee Combined Code (2008) and the 2013 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) document "Practical Guidance for Local Authorities - Audit Committees".

**2.2** The Chair's report was considered and approved by the Audit Committee on 21 June 2016. The report is referred to Council for consideration.

**3 Report Implications****3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising from this report

**3.2 Risk**

There are no risks associated with this report.

**3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

The work of the Audit Committee over 2015/2016 has addressed each of these issues in respect of particular subjects.

### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

The work of the Audit Committee over 2015/2016 has addressed each of these issues in respect of particular subjects.

### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The Management Action Plans approved by the Audit Committee over the year have improved performance and outcomes in a number of areas.

### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The Management Action Plans approved by the Audit Committee over the year have introduced measures to improve procedures in a number of areas to ensure good practice and accountability.

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

It was not considered necessary to consult with Communities and other Stakeholders in respect of this report.

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

N/A

### **3.10 IT Issues**

N/A

## **4 Recommendations**

The Council is invited to consider the Annual report of the Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

**Date 16 August 2016**

#### **Report Contact:**

Janet Ritchie Tel No. 0131 271 3158

[janet.ritchie@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:janet.ritchie@midlothian.gov.uk)

#### **Background Papers:**

Annual Report from the Chairman, Year ended 31 March 2016

Appendix 1 - Audit Committee Self Assessment

Appendix 2 - Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

Appendix 3 - Core Areas of Knowledge