



Subject:	Report of the Audit & Risk Panel to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Date:	23 September 2016
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive,
Contact Officer:	Andrew Harrison, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS)

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Audit and Risk Panel is constituted as a working group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The purpose of the Panel is to provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. The Panel also oversees the Council's financial reporting process.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to provide a brief summary to Committee of the key issues that have been considered and discussed by the Panel at its September 2016 meeting and present the detailed minutes for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the minutes of the Audit & Risk Panel meeting of 13 September 2016 and note the key issues arising from the meeting.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 253 1471 338">Audited Financial Statements 2015/16 and Draft Report to those charged with Governance</p> <p data-bbox="165 353 1445 640">3.1 Following recent reform of financial reporting deadlines, September is now a key date in the financial reporting calendar in that the audit of the financial statements of the previous year must be reported to Committee during this month. The Audit & Risk Panel therefore received the detailed financial statements and the results of the NIAO's audit of these statements (a separate report on the financial statements has been provided to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee).</p> <p data-bbox="165 707 1471 1093">3.2 The Panel was also advised that the Local Government Auditor had issued, in draft format, her 'Report to those Charged with Governance for 2015/2016' which summarised the system/control issues arising from the Northern Ireland Audit Office's audit of the Council's financial statements. The NIAO Director indicated that the audit had been largely completed and that it was anticipated that the Local Government Auditor would certify the Council's statements with an "unqualified opinion". She had identified three 'Priority 2' recommendations from her audit work and management would now review and respond to the recommendations and report back to the next meeting of the Panel on proposed action.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1160 799 1193">Audit, Governance and Risk Services</p> <p data-bbox="165 1211 1471 1397">3.3 AGRS reported on a number of completed audits including audits relating to planning, leisure partnership, off-street parking and property maintenance. Updates were also provided on work completed at Belfast City Centre Management and Visit Belfast. Updates were also provided in relation to risk management, investigations and the National Fraud Initiative.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1464 355 1498">Other</p> <p data-bbox="165 1516 1471 1749">3.4 The Panel re-elected the Chair in accordance with the new protocol for chairing of working groups. It also received updates on absence management and corporate health and safety. Minor changes to the terms of reference for the Panel were also agreed, to now formally include receiving and reviewing information regarding the Council's performance framework and related NIAO audit reports on this area.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1823 722 1859"><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1868 347 1904">3.5 None</p> <p data-bbox="272 1984 786 2020"><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 2020 347 2056">3.6 None</p>

4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Audit and Risk Panel 13 September 2016