

North Tyneside Council

Report to Audit Committee

Date: 16 November 2022

Title: Update on North East
Audit Committee Chairs Forum

Report from Service Area: Resources

Report Author: Richard Dunlop, Interim Chief Internal Auditor (Tel: 643 5738)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on the Council's hosting of the North East Audit Committee Chairs Forum

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Audit Committee notes this report.

1.3 Council Plan and policy framework

The work of Internal Audit and the Audit Committee covers all service responsibilities as identified within the Council Plan.

1.4 Information

- 1.4.1 The Government initiated an England-wide initiative to bring the Chairs of each Audit Committee together on a regional basis to provide an opportunity to meet and discuss topical issues and to network. The organisation of the regional areas was delegated to the Local Government Association (LGA). The Council received a grant, partially to administer the Forum, and partly for the expenses of running the Forum.
- 1.4.2 In early 2022 the Council agreed to host the North East Region comprising NOTCA, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Hartlepool, Darlington, Durham, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Durham, Sunderland, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton on Tees. The second meeting was held on 5th October 2022 and hosted by the Council's Chair of the Audit Committee at The Quadrant.
- 1.4.3 There were 13 attendees to the Forum and guest speakers were provided from the LGA and the Institute of Internal Auditors covering an Update on Forums and Topical Issues, Supporting Audit Committee Members in a Time of Change, as well as a short presentation on Cash and Treasury Management. There was also an open discussion on the role and structure of Audit Committees, how the Forum will be managed in the future and topics for future discussion. The meetings are to be held 3 times a year and it is hoped that venues will move around the North East area to be more inclusive.

1.5 Decision Options:

It is recommended that the Audit Committee:

(a) notes this report

(b)

There are no other options available in relation to this report.

1.6 Reasons for recommended option:

This recommendation is for information only.

1.7

1.8 Background information:

The following background papers and research reports have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author.

(a) The draft minutes of the North East Audit Committee Chairs Forum 5th October 2022.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation set out in this report.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

The Forum is structured to assist Audit Chairs in the locality. There is no expected consultation/community engagement.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no specific risks arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issues arising from this report.

Report author Richard Dunlop