

# **Terms of Reference**

## **Governance and Audit Committee<sup>1</sup>**

The Governance and Audit Committee is authorised:

1. To review and scrutinise the Combined Authority's financial affairs.
2. To review and assess the Combined Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements.
3. To review and assess the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used in discharging the Combined Authority's functions.
4. To make reports and recommendations to the Combined Authority in relation to reviews conducted under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above.
5. To consider the findings of a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and approve the annual governance statement<sup>2</sup>.
6. To consider and approve the statement of accounts.
7. To consider external audit arrangements and reports, and consider any audit letter from the local auditor following an audit.
8. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Combined Authority.<sup>3</sup>
9. To advise the Combined Authority in relation to:
  - adopting, revising or replacing its Members' Code of Conduct<sup>4</sup>;
  - appointing at least one independent person<sup>5</sup>;
  - arrangements for investigating and making decisions about allegations of failing to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct.

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<sup>1</sup> Appointed in accordance with Schedule 5A paragraph 4 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

<sup>3</sup> This function does not extend to adopting, revising or replacing the Members' Code of Conduct.

<sup>4</sup> The Code applies to members and voting co-opted members of the Combined Authority and includes provision about registering and disclosing interests.

<sup>5</sup> In accordance with Section 28(7) Localism Act 2011.

**To be approved at the Annual Meeting on 28 June 2018.**

10. To consider and determine any allegation of failing to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct<sup>6</sup>.
11. To consider and determine any matter within the delegated authority of a Director<sup>7</sup>, which is referred to the Committee by that Director.

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<sup>6</sup> In accordance with arrangements made by the Combined Authority.

<sup>7</sup> A Director, in this context, is any officer to whom functions are directly delegated by the Combined Authority under the Officer Delegation Scheme.

To be approved at the Annual Meeting on 28 June 2018.