

**Barrow Borough Council**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Wednesday, 2 November 2022**  
**Contract Management**

---

**Report from:** Director of Resources  
**Report Author:** Director of Resources  
**Wards:** (All Wards);

---

**1.0 Summary and Conclusions**

1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee Combined Improvement Plan has identified an assurance role regarding contract management for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**2.0 Recommendation**

- 1. It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to incorporate contract management assurance into the Work Plan.**

**3.0 Background and Proposals**

- 3.1 The Audit and Governance Committee has established a Combined Improvement Plan which addresses recommendations from external audit, internal audit, the Annual Governance Statement review of governance, and the self-assessment of the CIPFA Financial Management Code. A copy of the improvement plan is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The Plan incorporates the statutory recommendations made in relation to the external audit of 2020-2021 including:
- Ensure members and officers have robust assurance and reporting arrangements in place, for managing all ongoing contracts and to enable appropriate and timely action to remediate any non-compliance or wider deficiencies
- 3.3 The purpose of the improvement is to provide Members with compliance assurance and to demonstrate timely action in holding officers to account for any non-compliance.

3.4 Two actions will achieve the improvement:

- Action 1 - regular progress report to the Corporate Programme Board to highlight any issues on the contracts register
  - Procurement and Contract Lead
  - Introduced July 2022
- Schedule of significant contracts provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Overview and Scrutiny Committee to select those contracts to be reported on through the committee cycle.
  - Procurement and Contract Lead to provide contract listing
  - Heads of Service to report
  - First report December 2022

3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to incorporate contract management assurance into the Work Plan.

#### **4.0 Consultation**

4.1 Consultation is not relevant to the recommendation.

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 The alternative option is to ask the Audit and Governance Committee to incorporate contract management assurance into that Work Plan.

#### **6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities**

6.1 Good governance underpins the Council Plan priorities and supports its objectives.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement**

7.1.1 There are no direct financial, resource or procurement implications from the recommendation.

##### **7.2 Legal**

7.2.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

##### **7.3 Local Government Reorganisation**

7.3.1 There are no issues to raise.

##### **7.4 Equality and Diversity**

7.4.1 There are no equality or diversity implications from the recommendation.

#### **Risk**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls required</b>
-------------	--------------------	--------------------------

Failure to deliver Audit and Governance Combined Improvement Plan.	No improvement; reputational risk.	Ensure implementation of agreed action and monitoring/review of the Improvement Plan.
--	------------------------------------	---

### Contact Officers

Director of Resources [directorsadmin@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:directorsadmin@barrowbc.gov.uk)

### Appendices attached to this report-

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Audit and Governance Combined Improvement Plan

### Background Documents available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Annual Audit and Statutory Recommendations	<a href="http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk">www.barrowbc.gov.uk</a>
Reports to Council 18.10.22 and Audit and Governance 20.10.22 on Improvement Plan and Annual Governance Statement	<a href="http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk">www.barrowbc.gov.uk</a>