



Committee and date

Audit Committee

7 December 2009

9.15am

Item No

10

Public

ANNUAL REVIEW OF AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Summary

This report identifies minor proposed changes to the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference for comment by members.

Recommendations

- A. Members are asked to consider the current Audit Committee Terms of Reference and comment on the proposed changes.

Report

1. The Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee were agreed by Council on 16th September 2005 and presented to Audit Committee on 23rd November 2005. Part of the responsibility of this Committee is to review annually the Terms of Reference to ensure they are current and up to date and make recommendations for changes to Full Council for consideration.
2. The Terms of Reference were put together following best practice guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in 2005. CIPFA have subsequently issued a publication titled "Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities". In reviewing the Terms of Reference in November 2006 account was taken of the best practice guidance within this publication.
3. The review this year has identified a small number of changes which have been highlighted in red for ease of identification. A copy of the revised Terms of Reference is attached as **Appendix A**.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Risk Management Appraisal

Inadequate or out of date Audit Committee Terms of Reference may leave it unclear as to the role of the Audit Committee in ensuring that the Council has robust internal control arrangements in place.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Cabinet Member

Keith Barrow, Leader of the Council (Brian Williams, Chairman of Audit Committee)

Local Member

Appendices

Appendix A – Audit Committee Revised Terms of Reference