

AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 June 2016

Subject Heading:

Forward Plan for the Audit Committee 2016/2017

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

To agree a draft forward plan for the Audit Committee.

Financial summary:

N/A

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	X
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	X
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	X

SUMMARY

The Forward Plan (appendix A) provides a summary of the expected agenda items at each of the next five planned Audit Committee Meetings.

Training relevant to the agenda and based on priority is identified for each Meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To comment on the forward plan within the report.
2. To approve the forward plan, subject to any comments made.

REPORT DETAIL

1. The Audit Committee has been in place for a number of years. The Committee's terms of reference list the responsibilities and authorities delegated in the Council's Constitution, which comprise:
 - To consider and monitor the Authority's risk management and internal control environment;
 - To focus audit resources;
 - To receive and approve the Annual Statement of Accounts;
 - To monitor performance of internal and external audit; and
 - To monitor proactive fraud and corruption arrangements.
2. The Audit Committee is currently planned to meet on four occasions during the current financial year. There are specific reports planned throughout the year, running through a mix of quarterly progress reports and annual reviews of specific strategies and policies within the remit of the Committee, together with reports from the Council's external auditor. The Audit Committee will often also add an item to their agenda relating to follow up of a specific issue.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising from the agreement of the forward plan. However there are financial implications associated with the delivery of training reference in the plan. A separate report has been prepared for this Committee relating the provision of member training.

The existence of an effective Audit Committee is fundamental in ensuring the Council maintains a robust system of internal control. Failure of the Audit Committee to undertake its duties in an effective manner may result in issues that arise not being addressed. Agendas not being well planned could hinder the effectiveness of the Committee.

Legal implications and risks:

None arising directly from this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

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None arising directly from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.