



AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 February 2013

Subject Heading:

Annual Review of Audit Committee Effectiveness

Report Author and contact details:

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Policy context:

To inform the Committee of the results of the Annual Review of Audit Committee Effectiveness.

Financial summary:

There is no specific financial impact to be considered from this report.

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

Clean, safe and green borough	[X]
Excellence in education and learning	[X]
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	[X]
Value and enhance the life of every individual	[X]
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	[X]

SUMMARY

Best practice guidance suggests the effectiveness of the Audit Committee is considered on an annual basis. A self assessment against best practice guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) has been completed, with the assistance of the Chair of the Committee, and an improvement plan drawn up.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note and comment on the contents of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

A self assessment checklist has been produced by CIPFA as part of the Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees. The Committee Chair, with assistance from the Internal Audit and Corporate Risk Manager, undertook the full self assessment. The self assessment covers 10 different areas of Committee responsibility, administration and activity.

As a result of the self assessment two areas were highlighted for improvement. These were included in an improvement plan.

The membership of the Committee is generally stable and current members are experienced. Each party has nominated substitute members for Audit Committee and the substitutes are offered the same opportunities for support and training. The programme of briefings on relevant topics have continued and are timetabled going forward.

The outcome of the self assessment is reported in Appendix A.

The improvement plan is reported in Appendix B.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None directly arising from this report, however 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.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no legal implications from noting the contents of this Report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no HR implications from noting the contents of this Report.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are no Equalities implications from noting the contents of this Report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Audit Committee Handbook, HM Treasury, 2007

CIPFA Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees, 2006.