

7.05 Audit Committee

There will be an Audit Committee consisting of eight members. Seven of the members will be Non-Executive Councillors and reflect the political balance overall, 1 member shall be an independent person who is not a Councillor or Officer of the Council.

Role:

- To fulfil the role of an Audit Committee in respect of the work of the Council

Functions:

Audit Activity

- to consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the Council's corporate governance arrangements
- to consider summaries of specific internal audit reports of significance or as requested
- to consider reports dealing with the management and performance of internal audit
- to consider a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale
- to consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance
- to consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor
- to comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money
- to liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the Council's external auditor

Regulatory Framework

- to maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution.
- to review any issues referred to it by the Chief Executive, Director,

or any Council body

- to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council
- to monitor Council policies on confidential reporting code, anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy and Council's complaint process
- to oversee the production of the Council's Annual Governance Statement and to recommend its adoption
- to consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice
- to consider the council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls

Accounts

- to review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are any concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council
- to consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts
- duty to approve the authority's statement of accounts, income and expenditure and balance sheet

Standards

- promoting and maintaining high ethical standards by Councillors and non-elected members;
- assisting the Councillors and added members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and added members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;

- determining complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members referred for hearing by the Monitoring Officer.

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