

AUDIT COMMITTEE

This Committee is a Committee of the Council constituted under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.

FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:-

- (a) The adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.

DELEGATED MATTERS:- (the Committee may recommend any matter to Full Council when it considers it expedient to do so, after taking advice from the Head of Paid Service)

1. Audit Activity

- I. To consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, on the control environment, and reports on internal audit activity (actual and proposed), including for internal audit, the setting of Terms of Reference for internal Audit, the internal audit strategy, ~~and~~ reviewing of resourcing and considering the level of assurance the annual report and opinion can give, over the council's corporate governance arrangements.
- II. To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.
- III. To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the internal audit function.
- IV. To consider a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.
- V. To have the right to call any officers or agencies of the Council as required to offer explanation on progress in the implementation of audit recommendations.
- VI. To consider arrangements for cooperation between internal audit, external audit and other review agencies.
- VII. To consider the external auditor's annual letter **and**, ~~relevant reports,~~ and the report to those charged with governance and to monitor the implementation of external audit recommendations.
- VIII. To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- IX. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- X. To liaise with the Public Sector Appointments Ltd over the appointment of the Council's external auditor.

- XI. To commission work from internal and external audit as resources allow.
- XII. To have the right to call any officers or agencies of the Council as required to offer explanation in the management of internal controls and risks.
- XIII. To, as required, meet privately separately with the external auditor and the Head of Internal Audit.

2. Regulatory Framework

- I. To review and where appropriate make recommendations to Council on proposed revisions to the Council's Constitution and other policies and procedures in relation to Corporate Governance issues.
- II. To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or a director or any council body as the Chair considers appropriate within the general Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee.
- III. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the council particularly in so far as they relate to the adequacy of the internal control environment, effective management of risks, the background to the annual governance statement and production of the financial accounts.
- IV. To monitor council policies in 'Raising Concerns at Work' and the antifraud and corruption strategy.
- V. ***To consider the findings of the review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and to approve the Annual Governance Statement, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*** ~~To oversee the production of the authority's Annual Governance Statement and to recommend its adoption.~~
- VI. To consider the council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.
- VII. To consider the council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.
- VIII. To report and make recommendations to Cabinet or Council on major issues and contraventions.
- IX. To have rights of access to other Committees of the Council and to strategic functions as it deems necessary.

- X. To maintain oversight of any major issues arising from Police or other enquiries into the conduct of the Council in order to minimise disruption to other branches of the Authority.
- XI. To receive periodic reports from appropriate Directors on probity and corporate governance issues not specifically referred to elsewhere within the Committee's Terms of Reference.
- XII. To review the Council's policy under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 annually and to monitor compliance with the policy on a twice yearly basis.

3. Accounts

- I. To approve the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.
- II. To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

4. Ethical Governance

- I. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Officers.
- II. To grant dispensations to Councillors and Co-opted Members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members Code of Conduct, where not delegated to the Monitoring Officer.
- III. To hear appeals against decisions of the Monitoring Officer not to grant a dispensation.
- IV. To monitor and review the Council's Whistleblower's policy.
- V. To monitor and review protocols for standards of behaviour for Members and Officers.
- VI. To monitor and review protocols for Members and Officers on relationships and dealings with outside organisations and individuals.
- VII. To monitor and review Member and Officer procedures relating to gifts and hospitality and disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests.
- VIII. To monitor and oversee the response by the Council to complaints to the Ombudsman.
- IX. Dealing with complaints of alleged Member misconduct referred to the

Monitoring Officer under Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011.

- X. Granting and supervision of exemptions from posts being designated as politically restricted.
- XI. To arrange for the exercise of all the above functions in relation to Parish Councils wholly or mainly in its area and to the members of those Parish Councils.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND TRANSPORT (APPEALS) COMMITTEE

This Committee is a Committee of the Council constituted under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1. To consider and determine appeals for grant aid from students who do not meet the approved criteria for assistance, under either local or national award regulations.
2. To consider and determine appeals for the payment of expenses of children attending community, foundation voluntary or special schools to enable them to take part in any school activity or educational facility who do not qualify for assistance under the approved policies of the Authority.
3. To consider and determine appeals for the granting of scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries or other allowances to persons over compulsory school age who do not qualify for assistance under the approved policies of the Authority.
4. To consider and determine appeals ***that have been refused by an officer at the first stage*** for the provision of free home to school or college transport – including whether a particular walking route(s) is safe, or the payment of reasonable travelling expenses, to persons who do not qualify for either under the approved policies of the Authority.