
MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE	6 JUNE 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HYMAN (CHAIR), HOLVEY, KIRK, SCOTT AND WATSON R
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS HILL, JONES AND MOORE

PART B – MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

13. COMMITTEE ROLE, REMIT AND KEY RELATIONSHIPS

(See also under Part A Minutes)

Members considered a report which provided information on the role, remit and key relationships of the new Audit and Governance Committee.

The Committee had been introduced following the recent review of the Council's Constitution and was constituted as a non-executive sub-committee of Full Council. Guidance issued recently by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Professionals (CIPFA) recommended that authorities formally approve a Statement of Purpose for their audit committees. A suggested Statement of Purpose was set out in paragraph 5 of the report for Members' consideration. CIPFA's definition of the core functions of an audit committee was outlined in paragraph 7. These functions had been reflected in the delegations for the Committee included in the Constitution.

In response to Members' questions, Officers advised that it was their understanding that the Committee had authority to agree its own Statement of Purpose but may choose to refer this to Council for endorsement if desired. Audit committees must remain independent of the scrutiny process, but this did not mean that cross-membership with scrutiny was prohibited. With regard to training, it was noted that a Member training event on risk management had already been scheduled for 29 June.

RECOMMENDED: That Council endorse the following Statement of Purpose for adoption by the Audit and Governance Committee:

"The purpose of the Audit and Governance Committee is to act as the responsible body charged with governance at the Council. In doing so it will provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and

weakens the control environment, and will oversee the financial reporting process.”

REASON: To ensure the effective management and operation of the Committee and promote understanding of its purpose and function at the Council.

K Hyman, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 8.15 pm].