

Audit and Governance Committee Effectiveness – Action Plan Update

Summary

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide details of the progress made to address the remaining outstanding items included in the effectiveness action plan. Members are also asked to consider some limited changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference prior to approval by full Council.

Background

- 2 The committee established a task group to undertake a review of its own effectiveness. The task group reported its findings on 12 December 2012 and concluded that the committee fulfilled its responsibilities and complied with best practice in many areas. However, a number of areas were identified where it was felt that the committee's own effectiveness could be improved or other changes made to support the functioning of the committee. An action plan was subsequently agreed by the committee at the meeting on 19 March 2013.
- 3 A progress report was presented to the committee on 6 November 2013. The majority of the actions had been completed although in some cases further work was still required.

Action Plan - Update

- 4 Annex 1 provides details of the progress made to date to complete the remaining actions.
- 5 Following the annual review, some further changes are now required to the committee's terms of reference. These changes reflect the introduction of the new Public Sector

Internal Audit Standards in April 2013 and the anticipated changes to the appointment of external auditors following the implementation of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The proposed changes are set out in Annex 2.

Council Plan

- 6 The Audit and Governance Committee forms an important component of the council's corporate governance framework. As such it supports the overall aims and priorities of the council by promoting probity, integrity and honesty and by helping to make the council a more effective organisation.

Implications

- 7 There are no implications to this report in relation to:

- **Finance**
- **Human Resources (HR)**
- **Equalities**
- **Legal**
- **Crime and Disorder**
- **Information Technology (IT)**
- **Property**

Risk Management Assessment

- 8 The Committee may fail to fully and properly discharge its responsibilities if it fails to function effectively.

Recommendations

- 9 Members are asked to:
- a) consider the progress made to address the outstanding items included in the effectiveness action plan.

Reason

To ensure that the Audit and Governance Committee remains effective.

- b) consider the proposed changes to the terms of reference (as set out in annex 2) and recommend to full Council that the Constitution be amended.

Reason

To ensure that the Audit and Governance Committee continues to operate effectively and in accordance with recommended best practice.

Contact Details

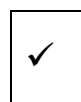
Author:

Max Thomas
Head of Internal Audit
Veritau Limited
Telephone: 01904
552940

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Ian Floyd
Director of Customer & Business
Support Services
Telephone: 01904 551100

**Report
Approved**



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Specialist Implications Officers

Not applicable

Wards Affected: Not applicable

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex 1 - Action Plan arising from the recommendations of the A&G Committee Task Group
Annex 2 – Proposed changes to the A&G Committee terms of reference