
Audit and Governance Committee

26 April 2010

Report of the Assistant Director of Customer & Business Support (Customer Service & Governance)

Review of Overview & Scrutiny Work 2009/10

Summary

1. To provide members with information about the work and outcomes of the council's overview & scrutiny committees during 2009/10, which may impact on the Audit & Governance (A&G) Committee's opinion of the council's internal control framework.

Background

2. At its meeting on 21 December 2009 A&G members, as part of a review of the terms of reference of the committee, considered the following:

"Under the Comprehensive Area Assessment, in the Organisational Assessment (Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry), a 'performing well' local authority will have an audit committee which *ensures it is aware of the work undertaken by other committees, for example the scrutiny committee, so it can take account of any significant internal control issues.*"
3. Members agreed at the committee held on 15 February 2010 that:
'officers produce a six monthly or annual summary of scrutiny reports and outcomes which could prompt questions from and further reports for A&G. As a minimum a report should be received annually at the April meeting to inform discussion on the draft Annual Governance Statement.'
4. A brief overview of scrutiny activity in 2009/10 is given at Annex A.

Consultation

5. In consultation with Scrutiny officers, it is proposed to bring the Annual Scrutiny Report to the June meetings of this committee which can still inform the Annual Governance Statement, with an interim progress report in December of each year. If agreed this will be added to future Forward Plans.

Options

6. Not relevant for the purpose of this report.

Analysis

7. Not relevant for the purpose of this report.

Corporate Priorities

8. This report contributes to the overall effectiveness of the council's governance and assurance arrangements contributing to an 'Effective Organisation' and seeks to further improve the system of internal control in line with professional best practice.

Implications

9.
 - (a) **Financial** - There are no implications
 - (b) **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications
 - (c) **Equalities** - There are no implications
 - (d) **Legal** – There are no implications
 - (e) **Crime and Disorder** - There are no implications
 - (f) **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no implications
 - (g) **Property** - There are no implications

Risk Management

10. Failure to improve awareness of the work of scrutiny committees may lead to a view that the A&G Committee is failing to follow best practice requirements in exploring all available information on internal control arrangements (risks, controls and improvements in controls), and as a result its Use of Resources score in future CAA assessments could be adversely affected.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to:
 - (a) comment on the report's content and identify any areas in which they feel has an impact on the work of the A&G Committee and/or the Annual Governance Statement 2009/10 and, if necessary, where further more detailed reports are required;
 - (b) agree the revised timetable for receiving summary reports on the work of overview & scrutiny committees.

Reason

To improve members' awareness of activity and outcomes from other committees' work where it could influence the work and opinion of the A&G Committee.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



Date 15/4/10

Specialist Implications Officers

Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

All Overview & Scrutiny Agenda Papers 2009/10
All Council Agendas 2009/10

Annexes

Summary of Scrutiny work 2009/10