

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS – ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

To: **Audit and Accounts Committee**

Date: **29th May 2018**

From: **Chief Internal Auditor**

Electoral Division(s): **All**

Forward Plan Ref: **N/A**

Key decision: **No**

Purpose: **To present the Terms of Reference for the Audit & Accounts Committee for annual review.**

Key Issues: **N/A**

Recommendation: **The Audit and Accounts Committee is asked to review and approve the Terms of Reference.**

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AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background:

- 1.1 The current Terms of Reference are attached at Annex A.
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference have been in place since July 2017, following an update and review initiated by the Chief Internal Auditor that the Committee approved and recommended on for endorsement by the Constitution and Ethics Committee in June 2017 and final approval by full Council. As they were only reviewed last year, the Chief Internal Auditor is not recommending any further changes. Any proposed changes would need to be referred on to Constitution and Ethics Committee for their consideration.

2. Recommendation:

- 2.1 The Audit & Accounts Committee is asked to review and approve the attached terms of reference.

3. Source Documents:

Source Documents	Location
Audit & Accounts Committee Terms of Reference	Box OCT1108 Shire Hall Castle Hill Cambridge, CB3 0AP

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Membership:

Seven members of the Council. The Chairman/woman and Vice-Chairman/woman of the Committee shall be elected by the Audit and Accounts Committee.

The Audit and Accounts Committee shall be entitled to appoint up to three people at any one time as non-voting co-opted members of the Committee. The Committee shall determine whether the co-options shall be effective for a specified period, for specific meetings or for specific items. The Committee may not co-opt any person who is an active member of any political party, defined as any person who engages in political activities which would not be permissible if that person was an officer holding a politically-restricted post within the Council. Co-options may only be made if the person co-opted has particular knowledge or expertise in the functions for which the Committee is responsible.

The Committee will meet at least 4 times a year, and will maintain the technical capability to discharge the Audit and Accounts Committee responsibilities of the Council.

2. Summary of Functions:

- To provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment.
- To provide independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakness of the control environment.
- To oversee the financial reporting process.
- To review matters relating to Internal Audit, external audit, risk management, governance, assurance statements, anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.
- To enhance and promote the profile, status and authority of the Internal Audit function and to demonstrate its independence.
- To contribute towards making the authority, its committees and departments more responsive to the audit function.

- To review compliance with the relevant standards, codes of practice and corporate governance policies.
- To consider the extent to which the authority's control environment is successful in achieving value for money.

Delegated Authority	Delegation/ Condition
<p><u>1</u> <u>Audit Activity</u></p> <p>1.1 To approve the Internal Audit strategy and monitor its progress</p> <p>1.2 To approve, but not direct, Internal Audit's annual plan of work and monitor unscheduled work that could potentially divert audit resources away from a plan, and monitor performance against those plans, ensuring that there are no inappropriate scope or resource limitations.</p> <p>1.3 To consider the Annual Report and opinion of the Head of Audit and a summary of Internal Audit activity and the level of assurance it can give over the Council's corporate governance arrangements. To suggest work for Internal and External Audit</p> <p>1.4 To consider summary Internal Audit reports and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary</p> <p>1.5 To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the Internal Audit function.</p> <p>1.6 To consider reports from Internal Audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within reasonable timescales</p> <p>1.7 To consider the Annual Audit Letter, relevant reports and the reports of those charged with governance</p> <p>1.8 To consider specific reports as agreed with the External Auditor to ensure agreed action is taken within reasonable timescales</p> <p>1.9 To comment on the scope and depth of the external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money</p>	

Delegated Authority	Delegation/ Condition
<p>1.10 To liaise with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited over the appointment of the Council's External Auditor</p> <p>1.11 To consider the reports of inspection agencies relevant to the Council (such as Ofsted, the Information Commissioner's Office, etc.)</p> <p>1.13 To undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit</p>	
<p><u>2</u> <u>Regulatory Framework</u></p> <p>2.1 To maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules, financial regulations, codes of conduct etc.</p> <p>2.2 To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or Executive Director or any Committee of the Council</p> <p>2.3 To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance throughout the Council</p> <p>2.4 To monitor council policies on "raising concerns at work" and anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies, including the Council's complaints process</p> <p>2.5 To oversee the production of the Council's Statement of Internal Control/Governance Statement and recommend its adoption</p> <p>2.6 To consider the arrangements for corporate governance and to agree necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice</p> <p>2.7 To consider the Council's compliance with its own and published standards and controls</p> <p>2.8 To report as appropriate to Full Council, relevant Policy and Service Committees and the Constitution and Ethics Committee on issues which require their attention or further action</p> <p>2.9 To bring to the attention of the General Purposes Committee any issue which may warrant further consideration or review</p>	
<p><u>3</u> <u>Accounts</u></p>	

Delegated Authority	Delegation/ Condition
<p>3.1 To review and approve the annual Statement of Accounts</p> <p>3.2 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</p> <p>3.3 To consider the External Auditor's report to those charged with the governance issues arising from the audit of the accounts</p>	
<p><u>4 Risk Management</u></p> <p>4.1 To consider the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements</p> <p>4.2 To seek assurances that action is being taken on risk-related issues</p> <p>4.3 To be satisfied that the Council's assurance statements, including the Statement of Internal Control, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it</p>	