

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSTITUTION

The Audit and Performance Committee is composed of four Members of the Council, three Majority Party Members and one Minority Party Member, but shall not include a Cabinet Member.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Audit Activity

1. To consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report including the Auditor's opinion on the Council's control environment and a summary of internal audit and anti-fraud activity and key findings.
2. To consider reports, at regular intervals, which summarise: the performance of the Council's internal audit and anti-fraud service provider/s audits and investigations undertaken and key findings progress with implementation of agreed recommendations
3. To consider the External Auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
4. To consider specific reports as agreed with the External Auditor.
5. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
6. To liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the Council's External Auditor.
7. To comment on the proposed work plans of internal and external audit.

Regulatory Framework

8. To maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules, financial regulations and codes of conduct and behaviour.
9. To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or a Director, or any Council body.
10. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council.

11. To monitor Council policies on 'Raising Concerns at Work', the Council's complaints process and the Antifraud and Corruption Strategy; specifically, the effectiveness of arrangements in place to ensure the Council is compliant with the Bribery Act 2010.

12. To oversee the production of the authority's Statement on Internal Control and to recommend its adoption.

13. To consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

14. To consider the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

15. To maintain an overview of the arrangements in place for maintaining High Ethical Standards throughout the Authority and in this context to receive a report annually from the Director of Law and the Chief Finance Officer.

Accounts

16. To review the annual statement of accounts and approve these for publication. 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.

17. To consider the External Auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

Performance Monitoring

18. To review and scrutinise the financial implications of external inspection reports relating to the City Council.

19. To receive the quarterly performance monitoring report and refer any issues which in the Committee's view require more detailed scrutiny to the relevant Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

20. To review and scrutinise personnel issues where they impact on the financial or operational performance of the Council including but not limited to agency costs, long-term sickness, ill health early retirements and vacancies.

21. To review and scrutinise Stage 2 complaints made against the City Council and monitor progress.

22. To consider and advise upon, prior to tender, the most appropriate contractual arrangements where a proposed contract has been referred to the Committee by the Chief Executive.

23. To maintain an overview of overall contract performance on behalf of the Council.

24. To review and scrutinise contracts let by the Council for value for money and adherence to the Council's Procurement Code.

25. To review and scrutinise the Council's value for money to Council tax payers.

26. To scrutinise any item of expenditure that the Committee deems necessary in order to ensure probity and value for money.

Staffing

27. To advise the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance on issues relating to the remuneration of all staff as necessary.

28. In the course of carrying out its duties in respect of 27 above, to have regard to the suitability and application of any grading or performance related pay schemes operated, or proposed, by the Council.