

Article 9 – The Audit Committee

9.1 The Audit Committee

The Council will establish an Audit Committee:

9.2 **Membership:** The Audit Committee will be composed of seven Councillors, excluding members of the Cabinet.

The Committee shall have delegated powers to appoint co-opted members, without voting rights but with expertise in relevant areas.

9.3 Role and Terms of Reference

9.3.1 To generally consider all relevant processes for risk, control and governance.

9.3.2 To approve and influence (but not direct) internal audit's strategy, plan and performance.

9.3.3 To review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.

9.3.4 To consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies.

9.3.5 To consider the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti fraud and anti corruption arrangements and seek assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.

9.3.6 To be satisfied that the Council's assurance statements, including the Statement on Internal Control, properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it.

9.3.7 To ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.

- 9.3.8 To review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to Members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.
- 9.3.9 To monitor, the implementation of Key recommendations and actions arising from the Council's Improvement Plan.
- 9.3.10 To consider key performance management reports and monitor the effectiveness of performance against the Best Value Performance Plan and key outcomes in the Council's Improvement Plan.
- 9.3.11 To promote relevant value for money studies following particular themes or service areas as appropriate.
- 9.3.12 To approve the Annual Statement of Accounts for submission to the External Auditor and for public consultation and to subsequently approve their adoption.
- 9.3.13 To ensure effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

9.4 Rules of Procedure

The Council Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of this Constitution shall apply insofar as they do not conflict with the rules herein.