

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Audit Committee	
MEETING DATE:	28 th June 2011	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 – Existing Terms of Reference for the Corporate Audit Committee		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 An annual report of the committee's work in 2010/11 is required to be submitted to Council at its September meeting and this report asks for Members views on the effectiveness of the committee during this time. This will be the sixth annual report of the Committee since it was established by the Council on 12th May 2005

1.2 The current terms of reference of the committee are attached at Appendix 1.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Corporate Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) Delegate responsibility to Councillor Andrew Furse as Chairman of the Committee during 2010/11 and the Head of Risk & Assurance to prepare an annual report for submission to Council in September;
- b) Comment on the effectiveness of the committee in carrying out its role during 2010/11 and request any changes to its future operation or workplan.
- c) Comment on the effectiveness of the role of the independent member to the committee and delegate responsibility to Councillor Andrew Furse and the Head of Risk & Assurance to decide on future arrangements for 2011/12.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications relevant to this report.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 The Committee's work is carried out to give assurance to the Council over its governance arrangements and meet its terms of reference which are attached at Appendix 1.

4.2 During the year the following areas have been covered by the committee –

- Approval of the 2009/10 Accounts both in draft and restated form
- Review of Progress to achieve the new International and Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- Review of the Treasury Management Strategy
- Review of Risk Management Arrangements and refreshed draft Strategy
- Review of the plans and work of Internal Audit
- Review of the options for future delivery of Internal Audit
- Review of Fraud & Corruption arrangements
- Review of the Annual Governance Review process for 2010/11
- Review of the Governance reports for Council & Pension Fund
- Review of the Annual Audit Letter for 2009/10
- Changes to VFM Opinion an Opinion Audit
- Review of Compliance with IFRS
- Review of Grant Claims & Returns
- Review of Opinion Plans for the Council & Pension Fund
- Review of an objection to the Councils Accounts
- Review of the fees letters for the Council and Pension Fund
- Various reviews of follow-ups to Internal & External Audit reviews
- Review of the work plan of the Committee

- In addition briefings have been delivered on the following topic areas -
 - a) Future of Audit Commission
 - b) Risk Management
 - c) Internal Audit
 - d) External Audit

- e) Fraud & Corruption
- f) Treasury Management
- g) West of England Partnership
- h) Corporate Governance & Ethics

4.3 The Committee has reviewed in depth its own terms of reference, role and independent support during 2009/10 and no further changes are recommended. Proposals were discussed in relation to the role of the Independent Member at the meeting of the committee last June.

4.4 However in light of the consultation paper on local public audit and proposed changes to audit committee membership by DCLG it is again recommended that there is no change at this time, subject to the comments of members of the Committee.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

5.2 The Corporate Audit Committee has specific responsibility for ensuring the Council's Risk Management and Financial Governance framework is robust and effective.

6. EQUALITIES

6.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and there are no significant issues to report.

7. CONSULTATION

The report was distributed to the S151 Officer for consultation.

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	