

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Audit Committee Annual Report 2010/11
Date of Meeting: 28th June 2011
Report of: Director of Finance
Contact Officer:: Name: Ian Withers, Head of Audit & Business Risk
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Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This draft report attached at Appendix 1 provides a summary of the Audit Committee's performance and achievements during 2010/11. It has been prepared on behalf of the Audit Committee members.
- 1.2 The preparation of an annual report is recognised as best practice for Audit Committees in providing assurance over its role by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Audit Committee:

- 2.1 Considers the draft report at Appendix 1 and makes any amendments and additions it deems necessary.
- 2.2 Refer the report (incorporating any amendments and additions) to Full Council for approval.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Audit Committee (the Committee) was established in May 2008, replacing the previous Audit Panel. Its purpose is contained in the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for a local authority to establish an Audit Committee it is implied by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and recognised across both the private and public sectors as a key component of corporate governance.

3.3 The key benefits of an effective Audit Committee are:

- Raising greater awareness of the effectiveness and continued development of the council's governance arrangements;
- Increasing public confidence in the objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting; and
- Reinforcing the importance and independence of internal and external audit.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The costs of the Audit Committee and its work programme including officer support and training is met from existing budgetary provision.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley 15th June 2011

5.2 Legal Implications:

The report is made under the Committee's power to consider and make recommendations to Full Council on matters relating to or affecting the Committee's functions.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon 16th June 2011

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There are no equalities implications arising.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 There are no crime and disorder implications arising.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no direct risk and opportunity management implications arising.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Robust corporate governance arrangements are essential to the sound management of the City Council and the achievement of its objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Audit Committee Annual Report 2010/11

Background Documents

1. Reports to the Audit Committee May 2010 – May 2011

