

THE REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Action Plan

Ref	Areas where Audit and Standards Committee can add value by supporting improvement	Actions	Action Owner(s)
1	Consideration is given to appointing an independent member who is not a councillor, or an officer of the Council, to the Committee.	Formulation of a Job Description / Person Specification. To be presented to the Audit and Standards Committee on 19 th November 2019 and to Council on the 19 th December 2019.	Monitoring Officer (MO) Head of ARA (HoA)
		Depending on outcome, lead on recruitment, selection and approval process.	S151 / MO / Head of ARA
2	Referesh the Committee's Terms of Reference to reflect the requirements of the revised guidance.	Draft prepared and presented to the 19 th November 2019 Audit and Standards Committee for endorsement.	MO / HoA
		Approval process via Council on the 19 th December 2019.	Chair of Audit and Standards Committee / MO / S151
3	Promoting the principles of good governance and their application to decision making.	Wider promotion of the Annual Governance Statement and good governance. To consider presentation at other Committees and via Members and Officers newsletters.	S151 / MO / HoA
		Inivite Chief Executive once a year to Committee to gain reasonable assurance on the effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements.	MO / S151

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4	Aiding the achievement of the authority's goals and objectives through helping to ensure appropriate governance, risk, control and assurance arrangements.	<p>Uncertainty around the role of other Committees and their responsibility in relation to corporate performance. For example, other committees in the governance structure might also scrutinise the Council's financial performance.</p> <p>Care should be taken to avoid duplication and maintain the focus of the Audit and Standards Committee on financial reporting and financial governance rather than on wider issues of performance and spending priorities.</p> <p>Financial scrutiny is a different role from that fulfilled by the Committee. Financial 'scrutiny' committees are likely to undertake reviews of the Council's budget proposals and financial performance. The Audit and Standards Committee should not seek to replicate scrutiny undertaken but should focus on the oversight of governance, risk and control and the audit process.</p> <p>An assurance framework to be developed to enable assurance to be provided to the Committee on the effectiveness of performance, project and programme management arrangements.</p>	S151 / MO / HoA
5	Members knowledge and skills self assessment.	Joint training workshops to be commissioned via CIPFA during 2019/2020 for all ARA partner Audit Committees.	S151 / HoA

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6	Annual Review of the effectiveness of the Audit and Standards Committee.	To consider all ARA partners Audit Committee members to collectively participate in the annual effectiveness review, to enable networking, benchmarking and to share good practice.	S151 / HoA