

AUDIT COMMITTEE – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE.

1. SUMMARY

In compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Financial Accountants (CIPFA) guidance, a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) was presented to the Audit Committee in December 2008 for review. The Audit Committee decided that further amendments should be made and this report introduces an updated draft TOR for the Audit Committee to review. The Director of Corporate Services is currently revising the Council Constitution to go to Council for approval and the Audit Committee have requested that the revised TOR be included. (See Appendix 1)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To review and agree the draft TOR and request the Director of Corporate Services to pick these up during the forthcoming Review of Political Management Arrangements.

3. DETAILS

3.1 The Audit Committee in December 2008 decided that the draft TOR should recognise its responsibility in discharging performance functions. A section has therefore been added in response to this decision.

3.2 The draft TOR for the Audit Committee reflects the guidance, "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities", produced by CIPFA. In addition, reference was made to the TOR for the Audit Committee agreed by Council on 17 May 2007 and issues raised by Grant Thornton UK LLP in their Interim Management Report of September 2008.

3.3 The draft TOR more clearly defines the role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee and follows current guidance as set out by CIPFA.

CONCLUSIONS

4.

The attached draft TOR will be monitored, updated and presented for approval on an annual basis.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy: None

5.2	Financial:	None
5.3	Personnel:	None
5.4	Legal:	None
5.5	Equal Opportunities:	None

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