

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
SHARED HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	16 JANUARY 2020	7
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report summarises the results of an assessment carried out to compare the Council's current arrangements with the guidance issued by CIPFA "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018" to ensure that it continues to operate in accordance with best practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee considers and comments on the self-assessment of good practice:
2. That the Committee considers and comments on the outcomes of the Knowledge and Skills self-assessments completed by members of the Committee.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The previous review of the Committee's effectiveness was carried out in 2016 when the effectiveness of the Audit Committee was confirmed. No assessment has been undertaken since.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

BACKGROUND

1. The purpose of an Audit Committee is to provide those charged with governance, independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance processes.

2. CIPFA have recently issued “Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018”. This sets out the functions, operations, roles and responsibilities of audit / governance committees in local authorities and represents best practice. This newly issued guidance replaces the version issued in 2013.
3. A key aspect of the guidance is evaluating and developing the Committee’s effectiveness. The guidance states that “the committee’s effectiveness should be judged by the contribution it makes to and the beneficial impact it has on the authority’s business. Evidence of effectiveness will usually be characterised as influence, persuasion and support. A good standard of performance against recommended practice, together with a knowledgeable and experienced membership are essential requirements for delivering effectiveness.”

SELF ASSESSMENT OF GOOD PRACTICE

4. The guidance incorporates a Self-Assessment of good practice which has been completed and discussed with the Chair of the Committee. Details of the assessment are included at **Appendix A**. This review only incorporates the Audit elements of the Committee’s work and not any Standards aspects.
5. The self-assessment contains 5 actions for improvement, 3 of which will be undertaken annually. The remaining 2 have been discussed with the Chair and further actions will be considered on the best approach to take to implement the actions.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SELF ASSESSMENT

6. Knowledge and Skills self-assessments were issued to all members of the Committee, with 6 being returned completed. A summary of the responses is attached at **Appendix B**. This has identified the following key areas for training:
 - Governance
 - Treasury Management
7. In order to meet this need, training sessions will be arranged for these specific areas over the coming months.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from this report
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no Health & Safety implications arising from this report, however risk management is a key responsibility of the Audit and Standards Committee.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
CIPFA Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018	2018	Internal Audit Office

Attached documents

Appendix A - Fylde -Audit Committee Self-Assessment Checklist- Nov 19

Appendix B - Skills and Knowledge responses summary