

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

TITLE	AUDIT COMMITTEE
POWERS / REMIT	
<p>(a) Main Purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment; 2. Scrutinise the council's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the council's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment; 3. Oversee the financial reporting process; 4. Approve the Council's Statement of Accounts; 5. Comment on the scope and nature of external audit; 6. Oversee proposed and actual changes to the council's policies and procedures pertaining to governance. <p>(B) Main Functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing the mechanisms for the assessment and management of risk; 2. Approving the council's statement of accounts; 3. Receiving the council's reports on the Statement on the Annual Governance Statement and recommending their adoption; 4. Approving Internal Audit's strategy, planning and monitoring performance; 5. Receiving the Annual Report and other reports on the work of Internal Audit; 6. Considering the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance and the council's responses to them; 7. Considering arrangements for and the merits of operating quality assurance and performance management processes; 8. Considering the exercise of officers' statutory responsibilities and of functions delegated to officers; 9. To recommend external audit arrangements for the council; 10. To receive and consider the results of reports from external inspectors, ombudsman and similar bodies and from statutory officers; 11. Overseeing the Partnership Governance Framework, including annual health checks and the Register of Significant Partnerships. 	
ACCOUNTABLE TO: Council	
MEETINGS: Normally six per annum plus specials where required	
MEMBERSHIP: 9 non-executive members (politically balanced) plus 1 independent member.	
ESTABLISHED SUB COMMITTEES: None.	