

## THE WORK OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE: REPORT TO COUNCIL

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	Councillors Ray Puddifoot and Jonathan Bianco
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member Finance & Business Services
<b>Officer Contacts</b>	Khalid Ahmed, Deputy Chief Executive's Office
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A - Audit Committee report: Report to Council on the Work of the Audit Committee

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To give Cabinet the opportunity to comment on the Audit Committee's Annual Report before it goes to Council.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	Elected Members have a key role in ensuring the Council has the sound financial and operational controls needed to give residents the services they deserve.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	Nil
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cabinet notes the Audit Committee's annual report to be submitted to Council in February.
2. That Cabinet provide any comments on the report to the Head of Democratic Services who will include them alongside the Audit Committee's report to Council.

### INFORMATION

#### Reasons for recommendation

In accordance with best practice guidance the Audit Committee are required to submit an annual report to Council outlining the Committee's activities over the previous 12 months. Cabinet is invited to comment upon the report.

## **Alternative options considered**

The Cabinet may decide not to comment.

## **Supporting Information**

1. The Audit Committee considered its draft Annual Report to Council at its meeting on 16 December 2009 as prepared by the Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Governance. The Committee endorsed the report, and no material amendments were proposed.
2. Cabinet are asked to provide any comments on the Audit Committee's report via the Head of Democratic Services, so these can be included alongside the report to Council.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

An effective and efficient Audit Committee is essential in reassuring residents and Members that the good governance of the Council is maintained.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate finance endorses the work of the Audit Committee, and is confident that it is effective in increasing the levels of assurance and control within the Council's corporate governance framework.

### **Legal**

This report has been prepared in accordance with appropriate legislation and having regard to the Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006