

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

29 JUNE 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

MEMBERS TRAINING

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The CIPFA guidance Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities recommends that the Members of an Audit Committee should receive specific training in their role and responsibilities as Members of that Committee. This report recommends suitable training.

2. TRAINING

- 2.1. Since 2006 the training requirements have been comprehensively achieved at minimum cost by appointing one of the Members of the working party who wrote Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities to undertake the training. The course has been supplied over two sessions at a cost of £2,500.

- 2.2. The Practical Guidance for Local Authorities recommends that induction training should be provided for all Audit Committee Members and cover:

- the role of the Committee
- the terms of reference
- the time input required of Members
- an overview of Council activities
- the financial and risk environment.

Further regular and specific Audit Committee training should also be provided in:

- financial reporting
- governance
- understanding financial statement
- the regularity framework
- the role of internal and external audit
- the importance of risk management

- 2.3. The training provided to date has generally been viewed by the Members of the Committee as very useful. Therefore I recommend that the existing trainer, Anna Klonowki, is retained for Members training in 2009-10.

3. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

3.1. The cost of two training sessions would be approximately £2,500.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

4.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

6. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

8. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

9. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1. Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities - CIPFA
December 2005.

11. RECOMMENDATION

11.1. That Members agree suitable dates for the provision of this training course.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE