

- (c) Contributing to the development of the Knowsley Partnership and other local partnerships between the Council, its residents and other local organisations (public, private and voluntary).
- (2) To consider issues of local concern including those related to the activities of other organisations and refer its views or recommendations, as appropriate, to the Cabinet/Council/Scrutiny Committees.
- (3) To invite to its meetings such people, as the Forum sees fit, to facilitate the conduct of its business e.g. Cabinet Members, Senior Officers and representatives of local organisations.
- (4) To act as an arena for local consultation on issues referred to the Forum by:-
 - (a) Council, Cabinet, or Scrutiny Committees;
 - (b) Officers;
 - (c) The Knowsley Partnership; and
 - (d) External Organisations.

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

- (1) To oversee the Council's corporate governance arrangements, the work of the Council's internal auditors, and the Council's response to external audit and other external inspections.
- (2) To review the operation and compliance with the Authority's Code of Corporate Governance, and annually will report to Council on the operation of the Code of Corporate Governance and make recommendations on the content of the Code of Corporate Governance.
- (3) To review and approve the Statement on Internal Control as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003. In doing so, the Committee will satisfy itself that it has obtained sufficient relevant and reliable evidence to support the disclosures made, in particular by:-
 - (a) receiving reports on the monitoring and progress of action plans relating to corporate governance arrangements;
 - (b) the receipt of a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of the system of internal controls as reflected in the Code of Corporate Governance;
 - (c) considering the progress and adequacy of management's response to these reviews; and

- (d) receiving reports on the monitoring and review of risk management.
- (4) To approve the annual Statement of Accounts, prior to submission to the external auditor, and the Statement of Accounts shall be signed and dated by the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee at which that approval was given.
- (5) In terms of internal audit, to make decisions in respect of operational matters, and may make recommendations to the Council on policy matters. In particular, the Governance and Audit Committee will:-
- (a) receive any internal audit strategies, codes of practice, audit plans, and progress against such plans as it considers necessary;
 - (b) receive the Annual Report on Internal Audit Activities;
 - (c) review the progress and adequacy of management's response to internal audit recommendations, and matters arising from the internal audit reports;
 - (d) consider those internal audit reports which, in the view of either the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and Information Society Technologies, or the Head of Audit Operations require to be brought to the attention of the Governance and Audit Committee; and
 - (e) keep under review and make recommendations to the Council on the content and operation of the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.
- (6) In respect of external audit and other external inspections, to make decisions in respect of operational matters, and may make recommendations to the Council on policy matters. In particular, the Governance and Audit Committee will:-
- (a) receive the external auditor's review of the Council's Statement of Accounts, Annual Audit Letter, Audit Plans, and any other reports and relevant matters deemed necessary by the external auditor;
 - (b) receive the governance aspects of reports from any other external inspection bodies (and not the service aspects); and
 - (c) review the progress and adequacy of management's response to external audit recommendations, and matters arising from other external inspection reports.