

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

24 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

CIPFA AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides information on the recent developments outlined in the CIPFA Better Governance Forum Audit Committee Update Issue 1 dated January 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The CIPFA Better Governance Forum has commenced publication of an Audit Committee Update which is aimed at helping Audit Committees to be effective. Issue 1 in January 2010 has been distributed to all Members of this Committee.
- 2.2. Within the update is a section on recent developments. This report provides Members with a note of progress on each of these developments.

3. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 3.1. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2009 recommends that a nominated committee should be responsible for effective scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies.
- 3.2. The Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy 2010-2013 was presented to the budget meeting of the Cabinet on 22 February 2010 and to Council on 1 March 2010. A quarterly monitoring report will be presented to the Cabinet and also an annual report in June. The Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutiny of treasury management and therefore the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy was presented to that Committee on 17 March 2010.
- 3.3. The Pension Fund Treasury Management Policy and Strategy was presented to the Pensions Committee on 13 January 2010.

4. HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT

- 4.1. In June 2009 CIPFA issued a Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Public Services which was reported to this Committee on 23 September 2009. In December 2009 CIPFA issued a consultation paper on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government which is reported elsewhere on this agenda.
- 4.2. CIPFA is currently developing a statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit. A draft statement is due to be issued in May 2010 for consultation. This will be presented to this Committee.

5. PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE

- 5.1. This report from the Audit Commission highlights the risks of fraud to local government and identifies good practice in fighting fraud. It includes a checklist for those responsible for governance. This was reported to this Committee on 25 November 2009.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

11. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

12. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

13. **MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

13.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

14. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1. CIPFA Better Governance Forum Audit Committee Update – January 2010.

14.2. Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services – CIPFA 2009.

14.3. Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy – February 2010.

14.4. Merseyside Pension Fund Treasury Management Strategy – January 2010.

14.5. The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Public Services – CIPFA – June 2009.

14.6. The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government Consultation Draft. CIPFA – December 2009.

14.7. Protecting the Public Purse – Local Government Fighting Fraud – Audit Commission – September 2009.

14. **RECOMMENDATION**

14.1. That Members note the progress made on the recent developments highlighted in the Audit Committee Update.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE