

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

24 MARCH 2010

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 for 2010-11.

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 Klonowski, is retained for Members training in 2010-11.

- 2.4. Members agreed at the meeting on 25 November 2009 that another training session should be arranged for early in 2010. It has not proved possible to arrange this training session. Therefore, I recommend that a training session should be arranged for early in the new municipal year before the first scheduled meeting of this Committee due on 28 June 2010. It would be particularly beneficial to Members to undergo training before 28 June 2010 because at that meeting Members will be requested to approve the Statement of Accounts for 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 a suitable date for the provision of a training course prior to 28 June 2010.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE