

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1)** To provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Council's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.
- (2)** To maintain an overview of the contract procedure rules and financial regulations and to agree any changes to the same.
- (3)** The Committee has the following duties, powers and authorities:
 - (a)** approval of the Council's statement of accounts;
 - (b)** the responsibilities of the Council under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make proper provision for its financial affairs;
 - (c)** to consider and make recommendations to Council or Cabinet as appropriate on;
 - (d)** the annual Audit Report and the Management Letter of the external auditor;
 - (e)** any other statutory report of the external auditor;
 - (f)** any internal audit report that may be referred to the committee by the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance or the Head of Legal and Member Services (as Monitoring Officer);
 - (g)** summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested;
 - (h)** the effectiveness and adequacy of the response by the Council, the Cabinet, any committee or sub-committee of the Council or of any officer to any internal or external audit report or management letter;
 - (i)** the systems of control and the arrangements for the prevention of fraud and corruption within the Council;
 - (j)** any other matter relevant to the audit of the Council's accounts and financial records or its systems for the control and safeguarding of all the Council's assets;
 - (k)** a report from Internal Audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale; and
 - (l)** the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the Council's corporate governance arrangements;
 - (m)** to approve (but not direct) the strategy, plan and performance of the Council's internal audit service;
 - (n)** to oversee the production of the Authority's statement or internal control and recommend its adoption;
 - (o)** to monitor the Council's policies on "Raising Concerns at Work", to the anti-fraud and corruption strategy and the complaints procedure;
 - (p)** to liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the Council's external auditors.
 - (q)** The Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee shall act as the Council's Risk Management Champion.
- (4)** Executive Members will not normally be members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee