

ITEM NO:8

DECISION-MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT ON AUDIT COMMITTEE 2007/08		
DATE OF DECISION:	25 JUNE 2008 AUDIT COMMITTEE 26 JUNE 2008 STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2007/08		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

The first Annual Report (for the year 2007/08) from the Chair of the Audit Committee is attached for consideration by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- (i) That the Audit Committee considers and comments on the Chair's Annual Report attached at Appendix 1.

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- (i) That the Standards and Governance Committee considers and comments on the Audit Committee Chair's Annual Report attached at Appendix 1.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Audit Committee forms part of the overall Corporate Governance process. The scope of the Audit Committee's role is defined in its Terms of Reference as approved by Full Council (15 November 2006). The key role of the Committee is to provide independent assurance to the Standards and Governance Committee on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and the internal control and reporting environment. Therefore, presentation of an Annual Report to the Standards and Governance Committee by the outgoing Chair is in line with good practice and is also consistent with recommendations made by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in its publication 'Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees'.

CONSULTATION

2. Consultation has taken place with relevant council officers, including the Executive Director of Resources, Chief Internal Auditor and Solicitor to the Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None.

DETAIL

4. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended 2006) the Council is required to review the effectiveness of its system of internal audit each year. Consequently, a self assessment against CIPFA's 'Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees', which recommends that Audit Committees periodically review their own effectiveness in discharging their responsibilities, was carried out by the Chair of the Audit Committee, supported by the Executive Director of Resources and the Chief Internal Auditor, and presented to the Audit Committee on 27 March 2008 for comment.
5. One of the proposed actions agreed by the Committee from the self-assessment was that an Annual Report on the Committee's work and performance during the 2007/08 Municipal Year should be made by the outgoing Chair of the Audit Committee to the Standards and Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2008.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

6. None

Revenue

7. None

Property

8. None

Other

9. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

10. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 require the Council 'to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.'

Other Legal Implications:

11. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

12. None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Audit Committee – Annual Report 2007/08
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Documents In Members’ Rooms

	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

FORWARD PLAN No: N/A **KEY DECISION?** NO

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	N/A
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