

MEETING:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	AUDIT STRATEGY AND AUDIT CHARTER 2010
CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR	TONY FORD

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To present the 2010/11 Audit Strategy and Audit Charter for consideration and approval by the Audit and Governance Committee.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

THAT the Audit and Governance Committee approve the 2010/11 Audit Strategy and Audit Charter, subject to any comments that the Committee wishes to make.

Key Points Summary

- The Audit and Governance Code requires the Committee to review and approve the Internal Audit Strategy and Internal Audit Charter once a year.
- The Audit Strategy and Audit Charter for 2009/10 was reviewed and adopted in March 2009.

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options as this is a requirement of the Audit and Governance Code agreed by Council on 13 November 2009.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The Audit and Governance Code requires the Audit and Governance Committee to review and approve the Audit Strategy and the Audit Charter once a year.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tony Ford – Chief Internal Auditor on (01432) 260425

Introduction and Background

- 3 Adoption of an Audit Strategy and Audit Charter represents best practice as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government (2006) and is an integral part of the Council's internal control arrangements.

Key Considerations

- 4 The Audit Strategy is a high level statement showing how Audit Services will be delivered and developed in accordance with the Audit Charter (Appendix 2 refers).
5. The Audit and Governance Code requires the Committee to review and approve the Internal Audit Strategy and Internal Audit Charter once a year.
- 5 The Audit Strategy and Audit Charter for 2009/10 was reviewed and adopted in March 2009.
6. The 2010/11 Audit Strategy (Appendix 1 refers) covers
 - Audit Services objectives and outcomes;
 - Resilience of the Audit Opinion;
 - Identification of significant issues and risks;
 - Provision of service;
 - Resources and skills; and
 - Internal Control Audit Opinion Matrix
5. The Audit Charter sets out the purpose, authority and responsibility of internal Audit.

Community Impact

6. None Identified

Financial Implications

- 7 There will be no additional cost to the Audit Services budget.

Legal Implications

8. None identified.

Risk Management

9. The Chief Internal Auditor has a responsibility to produce the Audit Strategy and the Audit Charter. If the Audit Strategy and Audit Charter is not reviewed and adopted there is the risk of non compliance with the Audit and Governance Code and the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government (2006).

Consultees

- 9 The Joint Management Team were consulted on contents of the Audit Strategy and the Audit Charter and their comments added.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Audit Strategy 2010/11

Appendix 2 – Audit Charter 2010/11

Background Papers

- The Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom (2006)