

Schedule 4 – Terms of Reference

Name and Terms of Reference	Membership
<p>Audit Committee</p> <p>Audit Activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider 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. 2. To approve, but not direct, the Internal Audit Strategy and annual audit plan ensuring that appropriate risk assessments have been carried out when formulating the internal audit plan and to monitor performance against the plan. 3. To review any revisions to the plan as advised by the Head of Internal Audit and agreed by the Director of Finance. 4. To review half yearly internal audit reports and the main issues arising and seek assurance from management that action has been taken, where necessary 5. To consider summaries of specific Internal Audit reports as requested. 6. To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of Internal Audit Services. 7. To consider a report from Internal Audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale. 8. To consider the External Auditor's Annual Letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance. 9. To consider specific reports as agreed with the External Auditor. 	<p>6 members of the Council excluding members of the Cabinet, in accordance with the political balance requirements.</p> <p>Normally chaired by an Opposition Member, where political balance allows.</p> <p>Conservative Group (3): Cllrs Brook, Fellows and Hutchings</p> <p>Liberal Democrat Group (2): Cllrs Long and Penny</p> <p>Independent Group (1): Cllr Maddison</p> <p>Non-voting Independent Member: Mr Kristian Hawkes</p>

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<p>10. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.</p> <p>11. To liaise with the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd over the appointment of the Council's external auditor.</p> <p>12. To commission work from Internal and External Audit within approved resources.</p> <p>13. To support the Council's compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services including the role as nominated Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the capital strategy, treasury management strategy and policies.</p>	
<p>Regulatory Framework</p> <p>14. To maintain a strategic overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules, financial regulations and codes of conduct and behaviour (the primary responsibility for considering and ensuring that the constitution is fit for purpose lies with the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee in relation to the codes of conduct).</p> <p>15. To maintain a strategic overview of the Council's compliance with the prevailing Accounts and Audit Regulations.</p> <p>16. To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive, a Director, the Monitoring officer, Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) or any Council body.</p> <p>17. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council and agree necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice</p>	

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<p>18. To monitor the “Whistle blowing Policy” which meets the requirements of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, to encourage employees to report suspected malpractice, fraud or crime by other staff, the public or organisations having dealings with the Council.</p> <p>19. To monitor and review the council policy on ‘Counter Fraud and Corruption’ and to be responsible for the Council’s procedure for investigating and responding to complaints.</p> <p>20. To consider the findings of reviews of the effectiveness of the system of internal control including the Annual Governance Statement and to recommend its adoption.</p> <p>21. To oversee the Council’s arrangements for corporate governance and consider necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.</p> <p>22. To monitor the Council’s compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.</p> <p>23. To maintain a strategic overview of the Council’s compliance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).</p>	
<p>Accounts</p> <p>24. To consider the External Auditor’s report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.</p> <p>25. On behalf of the Council, to consider and approve the annual statement of accounts.</p>	

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26. To consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.	