

Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

7 July 2009

Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Referring relevant issues between Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.

At the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 23 June 2009 the following recommendation was made in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 "Review of Audit Committee".

"That the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference be amended to confirm the ability of the Committee to refer relevant issues to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. Furthermore the Audit Committee suggested that a short briefing should take place to ensure that members of both Committees have a sound understanding of each others roles. The Audit Committee asked that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider whether they would similarly wish to establish a formal process for referring matters to the Audit Committee. (Minute number 62/06/09 refers)"

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the recommended amendment to the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference. An amendment to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference to establish a formal process for referring matters to the Audit Committee is also recommended, subject to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee approving the proposed amendment at their meeting on the 7th July 2009.

In reality the ability for the Audit and Overview & Scrutiny Committees to refer issues of mutual interest to each other already exists, but the purpose of the proposed amendments is to formalise that approach in the Council's Constitution.

Issue to be Decided

Members are asked to agree: -

- (i) **That the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee be amended to confirm the ability of the Committee to refer relevant issues to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**

- (ii) That subject to the comments at their meeting on the 7th July 2009, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee establishes a formal process as part of their Terms of Reference for referring matters to the Audit Committee.

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