

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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A MEETING OF THE

Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 6.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Mr P W D Greene (Chairman)

Mr P Cross

Mrs M Davies

Mr M Harris

Mr P Harrison

Mr R Peasgood

Ms A Purse

Substitutes:

Mrs F Aska

Ms J Bland

Mr F Bloomfield

Mr D Bretherton

Mrs S Cooper

Mr T Harbour

Mr A Hodgson

Mr D Turner

If you would like a copy of these papers in large print, Braille or audio cassette or have any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of interest

3. Minutes 29 June 2009

Purpose: to comment on the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting dated 29 June 2009, and approve them (**minutes attached**)

4. Internal audit activity report 2009/2010 quarter 2

Purpose: to summarise the outcomes of recent internal audit activity for the committee to consider. The committee is asked to review the report and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been or will be taken where necessary (**report attached**)

5. Internal audit management report 2009/10 quarter 2

Purpose: to report on management issues, summarise the progress of the internal audit team against the 2009/2010 audit plan up to the 18 September 2009 and to summarise the priorities and planned audit work for the remainder of quarter 2 2009/2010 (**report attached**)

6. Strategic risk register update

Purpose: to provide an opportunity to review the strategic risk register in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy. This will allow committee members to identify any strategic risks above tolerance and note the action management team are taking to mitigate that risk (**report attached**)

7. Local Government Ombudsman's annual review

Purpose: to consider a summary of information on complaints, to draw any lessons learned about the council's performance and complaint-handling arrangements and to seek assurances from officers on service improvements as a result of the letter (**letter and appendices attached**)

8. Draft whistleblowing policy and the draft anti fraud and corruption policy with associated response plan

Purpose: to comment upon the adequacy of the council's proposed arrangements in relation to whistleblowing and anti fraud and corruption, as set out in the draft whistleblowing policy and the draft anti fraud and corruption policy with its associated response plan, as attached to this report. These documents have been developed jointly with Vale of White Horse District Council. The committee is then asked to agree the documents for consultation and to recommend these documents to Cabinet for approval in December 2009 once each has been subject to a six-week consultation with the staff of South Oxfordshire District Council and

Vale of White Horse District Council (**report, policies and response plan attached**)

9. Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report

Purpose: to consider the Audit Commission's report to those charged with governance summarising the conclusions from its audit work (**report to follow**)

10. Statement of accounts 2008/09 including the Annual Governance Statement

Purpose: to approve the Statement of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement following audit (**report to follow**)

11. Exclusion of the Public

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business under Part 1 of Schedule 12A Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 on the grounds that:

- (i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

12. Update on financial systems

Purpose: to consider a report on the council's financial systems (**report to follow**)

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services