

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE 28th October 2010

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY & FINANCE

AUDIT COMMITTEE – AMENDED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of Report.

1. To present to Members the amended Forward Work Programme for the Audit Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1. Internal Audit's work impacts on all of the Corporate Improvement Plan/other corporate priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1. The core functions of an effective Audit Committee are:-

- To consider the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and corruption arrangements.
- Seek assurance that action is being taken on risk-related issues identified by auditors and inspectors;
- Be satisfied that the Council's assurance statements properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it;
- Oversee the work of internal audit (including the annual plan and strategy) and monitor performance.
- Review summary internal audit reports and the main issues arising, and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
- Receive the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor;
- Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies, where applicable;
- Ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies, and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted;
- Review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to Members, and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.

- 3.2 Effective audit committees help raise the profile of internal control, risk management and financial reporting issues within an organisation, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of issues raised by internal and external auditors. They enhance public trust and confidence in the financial governance of an authority.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1. In order to assist the Audit Committee in ensuring that due consideration has been given by the Committee to all aspects of their core functions a forward work programme was developed and presented to the Audit Committee at their meeting on 8th July 2010.

4.2. In accordance with the forward work programme the Audit Committee received a report in September from the Council's Risk Management & Insurance Officer on the role of the Audit Committee in respect of Risk Management. It was resolved at this meeting that the Audit Committee receive half-yearly Risk Management reports therefore the Forward Work Programme has been amended to reflect this and is attached at Appendix A. In addition, the Risk Management and Insurance Office informed Members that in the April report he would also be updating the Committee on any claims against the Council, as well as the insurance arrangements, as the policies are due for renewal at the end of March 2011.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1. None

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1. There are no equality issues.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1. None

8. Recommendation.

8.1. That Members consider and approve the amended forward work programme

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12th October 2010

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Background Documents

None