

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO COUNCIL

1.	Meeting:	Council
2.	Date:	28 July 2010
3.	Title:	Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10
4.	Directorate:	Financial Services

5. Summary

This report refers to and contains, at Appendix A, an Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10.

6. Recommendations

The Council is asked to note the attached Audit Committee Annual Report for the year 2009/10 and in particular the positive work of the Audit Committee during the year.

7. Proposals and Details

The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference and best practice as contained in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's document "A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees" require the Audit Committee to complete an annual report.

A copy of the 2009/10 annual report is attached at Appendix A. It shows key information relating to the Committee, its achievements during the year and key targets for 2010/11.

The Audit Committee has previously been commended by the external auditor and the annual report shows that it has successfully fulfilled its terms of reference and has improved the Council's governance and control environments.

The report shows that, during the year, the Audit Committee:

- Oversaw and contributed to creditable performance in the revised Use of Resources assessment
- Oversaw work on the Statement of Accounts which received a clean opinion from the external auditor
- Agreed the production of the Council's first Annual Fraud Report
- Established a '*Rotherham Audit Committee*' to look at partnership issues and held a first meeting of the Committee
- Encouraged and presided over a strengthening control environment, specifically by overseeing reviews of Financial Regulations, the Local Code of Corporate Governance, Ethical Standards and Partnerships' Governance.

Additionally, as part of our ongoing commitment to identifying and sharing good practice, we continued to support events in the sub-region during 2009/10. The Audit Committee was particularly pleased that Rotherham was asked to host the first sub-regional half-day conference in March 2010. This was a reflection of the Council's proactive work in setting up the South Yorkshire and Wakefield Audit Forum and its continuing leading role in developing audit committee arrangements across the area. The conference was a significant success and sets up further development in the future.

The plan shows how the Committee intends to build upon its strengths during 2010/11 and help the Council to maintain strong internal controls.

8. Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Council achieved a commendable 3 score for its Use of Resources in 2009 having previously received a commendation for its Audit Committee.

The preparation of an Annual Report is in line with best practice and will help the Council to maintain a positive Use of Resources score in 2010.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Good Governance is wholly related to the achievement of the objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

"A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees", CIPFA, IPF, 2006
Audit Committee, 14 April 2010
Cabinet, 7 July 2010

Contact Names:

C. Earl, Director of Internal Audit & Governance, x2033

Appendices:

Appendix A Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10