
PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS 2023/24

Report by the Chief Officer Audit & Risk

AUDIT COMMITTEE

10 May 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Audit Committee with the proposed schedule for Audit Committee Development Sessions 2023/24. These are designed to enhance the members' skills and knowledge to enable the Committee to fulfil its remit effectively.**
- 1.2 It is important that the Audit Committee, as a foundation for sound corporate governance, is able to demonstrate its effectiveness as a scrutiny body to the Council.
- 1.3 This report outlines the proposed schedule for Audit Committee Development Sessions 2023/24. These are designed to enhance the Members' skills and knowledge to enable the Committee to fulfil its remit effectively.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Audit Committee:

- a) Approves the schedule for Development Sessions 2023/24 for the Members, that is set out in paragraph 4.1; and**
- b) Notes that feedback on the development sessions will be obtained to re-assess the Members' skills and knowledge and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Audit Committee annually.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It is important that the Audit Committee, as a foundation for sound corporate governance, is able to demonstrate its effectiveness as a scrutiny body to the Council.
- 3.2 All members of the Audit Committee have carried out a self-assessment during 2022 of their individual skills and knowledge relating to the Council, Audit Committee, Governance and Audit using the CIPFA Audit Committee Skills and Knowledge Toolkit.
- 3.3 The following topics have been delivered during Audit Committee Development Sessions during 2022/23:
- Governance, Assurance and Audit – Induction (27 June 2022);
 - Risk Management Framework (7 September 2022);
 - Capital Strategy and Treasury Management (9 November 2022);
 - Internal Audit, and Fraud Fundamentals (1 December 2022); and
 - Audit Committee Skills and Knowledge Framework (2 February 2023).
- 3.4 The Committee agreed at its meeting on 13 February 2023 that a schedule be prepared on topics for Development Sessions during 2023/24.

4 PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS 2023

- 4.1 The individual self-assessments of Audit Committee members during 2022 and the areas of improvement identified during the Audit Committee annual self-evaluation in March 2023 have been used to inform the content of the Development Sessions for 2023/24.
- 4.2 The proposed schedule for Audit Committee Development Sessions during 2023/24 is set out in the following table, to enhance Members' skills and knowledge to enable the Audit Committee to fulfil its remit effectively:

Proposed Date	Proposed Topic
xx June 2023	Financial management and accounting principles and practice (incl account formats and content)
xx September 2023	Role of External Audit in the Public Sector
xx November 2023	Capital Strategy and Treasury Management (with a focus on Debt Management) by Link Group, SBC's treasury advisors
xx February 2024	Overview of the Council's Procurement framework to outline control environment and arrangements for value for money
xx March 2024	Annual self-evaluation of Audit Committee

- 4.3 As previously agreed by the Committee, the Development Sessions will be scheduled separate from the formal meetings to enable dedicated time for Members' development though in alignment with the Audit Cycle to ensure their relevance and timeliness. The Development Sessions will be delivered remotely using MS Teams.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that the Audit Committee does not fulfil its remit. This will be mitigated by carrying out self-assessments on skills and knowledge and putting in place development sessions to enhance knowledge on specific topics relevant to the remit of the Audit Committee.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

This is a routine good governance report for assurance purposes, not a new or revised policy or strategy for decision and, as a result, completion of an integrated impact assessment is not an applicable consideration.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

The recommendations in this report will not directly impact any of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

5.5 Climate Change

This report does not relate to any proposal, plan or project and as a result the checklist on Climate Change is not an applicable consideration.

5.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from content of this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the content in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The members of the Audit Committee were engaged in the skills and knowledge self-assessment process during 2022 and the annual self-evaluation of the Audit Committee as a whole in March 2023.

Approved by
Jill Stacey, Chief Officer Audit & Risk

Author(s)

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Background Papers: CIPFA Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 Edition

Previous Minute Reference: Audit Committee 13 February 2023

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