

Item/Min Ref:	Title of Report: Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee Member Training	Officer presenting: Lead Assurance Officer Author: Lead Assurance Officer
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on recent training provided and seek a recommendation from Members to enable Officers to organise relevant training for Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee Members going forward.

2 Background

- 2.1 The HM Treasury Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Handbook (April 2013) sets out five good practice principles for the Committee. Principle 1: Membership, independence, objectivity and understanding states that the Committee should be independent and objective; in addition, each member should have a good understanding of the objectives and priorities of the organisation and of their role as an Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee Member.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Officers appreciate that the role of Members on the Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee is a challenging one and needs strong members with an appropriate range of skills and experience. The Committee is required to act as the conscience of the organisation and to provide insight and strong constructive challenge where required. As a result of this it is important that training is provided to Members to allow them to carry out their role as efficiently and effectively as possible. Additionally, the Council recruited an independent advisor in 2015 to assist the Committee to have the appropriate skills mix to allow it to carry out its overall function.

3.2 Members will be aware that there was a Committee Self-Assessment exercise in 2016 and one of the areas that required a response was 'Training'. A report summarising the results of the responses received was provided to this Committee in September 2016. With regard to training, the recommendations arising from the Self-Assessment included the following:

- Member's skills and experience: It was noted that the skills and experiences of individual members are not assessed. It was recommended that consideration be given to assessing the skills and experiences of individual Members in their role as members of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee and offering training if significant gaps are identified.
- Induction training for Members: Audit Committee training is provided however there is no specific induction training for new members of the Committee. It was recommended that consideration be given to whether induction training be provided to new members of the Committee.

3.5 In previous years, Audit Committee Training was bought in using external providers, however, in recent years, at the request of Members, the training was provided in-house by Council Officers. Members will recall that they were last provided with Audit Committee Training in October 2016 and with Fraud Awareness Training in May 2017. To date, Audit Committee Training has been provided every two years so this would mean that the next projected Audit Committee training session would be held in autumn 2018.

4 Financial and Other Implications

4.1 No budget implications arise as a result of this business.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members of the Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee are requested to approve that:

5.1.1 The next Audit Committee training be delivered in autumn 2018 by the Lead Assurance Officer and the Internal Audit Manager.

5.1.2 The Lead Assurance Officer and the Internal Audit Manager provide individual induction training for new Members.

5.1.3 In addition to this Members are asked to consider if any training gaps are apparent and if so, advise the Lead Assurance Officer or the Internal Audit Manager.

Background Papers

None