

Telford & Wrekin Council Audit Committee

Terms of Reference Comparison Exercise

Background

The Audit Committee tasked Internal Audit with reviewing the committees terms of reference to identify if its scope of responsibility was appropriate and in particular whether the committee should be responsible for overseeing other Council activity.

Comparison Exercise

Internal Audit compared the Audit Committee's current ToR with other ToR's for Audit Committees in other Council's. The ToR for Audit Committees in the following Councils were compared to T&W Councils:

- Sandwell & Wolverhampton Councils (same ToR)
- Birmingham City Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Newcastle City Council
- Southend Borough Council
- Suffolk County Council

These Councils were chosen as they are part of the internal audit network group, the Local Authority Chief Auditors Network, which T&W attend.

Additions Identified

The following activates in the above Councils ToR that are not included in the T&W ToR are as follows:

Sandwell & Wolverhampton

1	Review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations
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Birmingham

1	To consider reports from the Ombudsman and monitor management response in relation to these.
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Bedford

1	Recommendations on developing the Council's Constitution
2	Assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place for the auditing of partnerships and for regularly reviewing and updating those arrangements.

Newcastle

1	None
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Southend

1	Provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework.
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Suffolk

1	Maintain an overview of the Local Government Ombudsman investigations and the LGO Annual Review Letter.
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Areas to Consider Adding to T&W Audit Committee ToR

1. Increased overview of the risk management framework
2. Assurance on the Council's partnership arrangements
3. Maintain an overview of LGO investigations including review of the LGO Annual Letter