

## **Audit Committee**

Meeting to be held on 25 June 2012

Electoral Division affected: All
-------------------------------------

## **Audit Committee**

### **Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Cath Rawcliffe, 01772 533380, Office of the Chief Executive

[cath.rawcliffe@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cath.rawcliffe@lancashire.gov.uk)

### **Executive Summary and Recommendation**

The committee is asked to note:

- i. the membership of the committee following the County Council's Annual Meeting;
- ii. the Terms of Reference of the committee; and
- iii. the revised title of the committee and Terms of Reference with effect from 1 July 2012.

### **Background and Advice**

The county council at its annual meeting on 24 May 2012 approved the constitution of the committee on the basis of 6 Conservative members, 2 Labour members and 1 member from the Liberal Democrat Group. The following members were appointed by their respective groups:

County Councillor:

K Brown	J Lawrenson
S Chapman	M Parkinson
C Grunshaw	M Welsh
H Henshaw	D Westley
M Younis	

A copy of the committee's current Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The council also considered a detailed report on the new arrangements in relation to

the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 for a new Code of Conduct for members and the ending of the national standards regime.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Act the Council agreed:

- to approve a new Code of Conduct for Members
- that the Standards Committee be disestablished and its functions that are to be continued under the new arrangements be re-allocated to other committees with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.
- to establish a new Conduct Committee with new Terms of Reference relating to the consideration of complaints against members under the new Code of Conduct with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012
- Revised Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee and Employment Committee with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012, and
- with effect from 1 July 2012, the committee be renamed the 'Audit and Governance Committee' to more accurately reflect its revised role.

The revised Terms of Reference of the committee are attached at Appendix 'B' and reflect the transfer of functions from the Standards Committee such as the promotion of high standards and oversight of the Council's Counter Fraud policies, which it is felt are better placed with the revised Committee's functions and wider remit. The new Terms of Reference are otherwise substantially unchanged but have been rewritten to consolidate the various amendments to them that have been made over recent years. It is possible that these will be amended further as the Council's governance framework is reviewed over the coming year.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **Risk Management**

N/A

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
Full Council agenda	24 May 2012	Cath Rawcliffe Ext 33380

**Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate – N/A**