

Audit Committee

Meeting to be held on 24 January 2011

Electoral Division affected:
All

CIPFA's statement on 'The role of the head of internal audit'

(Appendix A refers.)

Contact for further information:

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Executive summary

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued a statement on 'The role of the head of internal audit' in December 2010 that is intended to be helpful to a wide audience including audit committees as well as chief executives and local authority leadership teams.

The foreword to this statement states:

'The Head of Internal Audit (HIA) occupies a critical position in any organisation, helping it to achieve its objectives by giving assurance on its internal control arrangements and playing a key role in promoting good corporate governance. The aim of this Statement is to clarify the role of the HIA in public service organisations and to raise its profile.' (Appendix A)

Recommendation

The Audit Committee is asked to note this statement.

Background

CIPFA is the professional institute that sets the professional framework for internal audit in local government, and this statement should be taken as informing the council of current best practice. Ruth Lowry, head of internal audit for Lancashire County Council is a member of CIPFA's Audit Panel, which has endorsed this statement.

The Institute of Internal Auditors frames professional practice for the internal audit profession more widely and its framework of internal audit standards is also applicable to the work of the council's internal audit service.

Consultations

Not applicable.

Advice

Not applicable.

Alternative options to be considered

Not applicable.

Implications: e.g. financial, legal, personnel, human rights, crime and disorder or other.

This statement should be read within the wider context of the council's corporate governance arrangements.

Risk management

This report supports the Audit Committee in undertaking its role; there are no risk management issues associated with it.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
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Not applicable.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate: Not applicable.