

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The following is an extract from Part 5 of Brent Council's constitution as amended and agreed at the meeting of the Full Council on 27th November 2006.

The report to Full Council is available on the Brent Council website from the following link: <http://www.brent.gov.uk/commins.nsf/ru/MKAO-6VMMEG>

Membership

- The committee is comprised of 3 councillors (one from each political group).

Terms of Reference

Audit Activity

1. To consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed), and the strategic and annual audit plans, and consider the level of assurance these can give over the council's corporate governance arrangements.
2. To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as appropriate.
3. To consider the annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit.
4. To consider, as required, reports from internal audit on agreed audit recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.
5. To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and their report to those charged with governance.
6. To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
7. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.

Regulatory Framework

1. To maintain an overview of the Council's constitution in respect of Contract Standing Orders and financial regulations.
2. To review any issue referred to it by the chief executive or a director, or any council body.
3. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council.

4. To monitor council policies to facilitate confidential reporting by employees of suspected fraud, corruption or any other wrongdoing, the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies, and the council's complaints process.

5. To oversee the production of the Council's Statement on Corporate Governance and Internal Control and to recommend its adoption.

6. To consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

7. To consider the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.

8. To monitor the handling of any audit reports from the Local Government Ombudsman.

Accounts

1. To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.

2. To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.