

Kent County Council Governance and Audit Committee: Terms of Reference

Objectives

The Governance & Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring that:

- (a) risk management and internal control systems are in place that are adequate for purpose and effectively and efficiently operated
- (b) the Council's corporate governance framework meets recommended practice, (currently set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Good Governance Framework), is embedded across the whole Council and is operating throughout the year with no significant lapses
- (c) the Council's Internal Audit function is independent of the activities it audits, is effective, has sufficient experience and expertise and the scope of work to be carried out is appropriate
- (d) the appointment and remuneration of external auditors is approved in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance, and the function is independent and objective
- (e) the external audit process is effective, taking into account relevant professional and regulatory requirements, and is undertaken in liaison with Internal Audit
- (f) the Council's financial statements (including the pension fund accounts) comply with relevant legislation and guidance and the associated financial reporting processes are effective
- (g) any public statements in relation to the Council's financial performance are accurate and the financial judgements contained within those statements are sound
- (h) accounting policies are appropriately applied across the Council
- (i) the Council has a robust counter-fraud culture backed by well designed and implemented controls and procedures which define the roles of management and Internal Audit and
- (j) the Council monitors the implementation of the Bribery Act policy to ensure that it is followed at all times
- (k) Ensure that there are effective governance arrangements in place for Kent County Council's wholly owned limited companies and trading vehicles.
- (l) Receive and review the financial statements and dividend policies of any KCC limited companies and to consider recommending corrective action where appropriate
- (m) Review the establishment of new limited companies before the company commences trading and make recommendations to the Governance and Audit Committee and responsible Cabinet Member where appropriate in relation to:
 - (i) Governance matters
 - (ii) The financial impact of the proposed company on Kent County Council.