

# **LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

PAPER MARKED

**B**

Meeting                   **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Date                       **THURSDAY 20 MAY 2010 – 10.00 A.M.**

Report of               **TREASURER**

Subject                   **AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT**

## **Purpose of Report**

1. To invite a review of the Audit Committee undertaken against the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication "Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities".

## **Background**

2. In 2005 CIPFA published "Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities", including a self-assessment checklist for authorities to test their own arrangements. In January 2007 the Finance and General Purposes Committee conducted a review of financial governance arrangements that included a section on Audit Committees.
3. The source material for that review was drawn from a variety of published material, mainly from CIPFA and the Audit Commission. A description of that used for the Audit Committee Review Area is reproduced at Annex A (i). The commentary that flowed from the Review is reproduced at Annex A (ii). The result was the formation of a new Audit Committee with a Statement of Purpose and an agreed set of Terms of Reference.
4. The Audit Commission recommends that current performance should be tested regularly against the self-assessment checklist, and on 3 February 2009 the Audit Committee reviewed a self-assessment prepared by officers.

## **Current Position**

5. The checklist used last year has been strengthened to include additional questions that have been developed elsewhere in collaboration with the Audit Commission.
6. It is proposed that from this year the Committee itself conducts the Review. Where factual information is relevant to a particular review question a note has been included in the "Comments" column.

## **Recommendation**

7. Members are recommended to consider and respond to the questions in the checklist, and identify any areas where further development is required.

## **Implications**

Financial: none. Legal: none. Diversity: none. Risk Management: contained within the report.

**Background Papers**

CIPFA publication "Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities".

**Officers to Contact**

C Smith, Treasurer, Tel 0116 229 8980

Email: [police.authority@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:police.authority@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)