

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	23 June 2005
Subject:	Reference from Audit Committee on Member training
Responsible Officer:	Director of Financial and Business Strategy
Contact Officer:	Myfanwy Barrett
Portfolio Holder:	Sanjay Dighe
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

1. To note the reference from the Audit Committee.
2. That the Reference from the Audit Committee be submitted to the Member Development Panel for consideration.

Reason for report

Requested by Audit Committee

Benefits

Improved governance arrangements.

Cost of Proposals

Small costs associated with additional training for Members.

Risks

Training becomes too onerous.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Views of Audit Committee will not have been supported by Cabinet.

Section 2: Report

Brief History

1. At its meeting on 10 May the Audit Committee considered a report on Corporate Governance. The report (Appendix 1) highlighted “The Good Governance Standard for Public Services.”
2. This report aimed to
 - Set out the Council’s governance framework using the six core principles established in the new standard
 - Identify progress made in 2004/05
 - Explain the relationship between the framework and the Statement on Internal Control
 - Update the Committee on progress against areas identified in the 2003/04 Statement of Internal Control
 - Outline the proposals for future work
3. The new standards includes a reference to:

“Making sure that Councillors have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well “
4. The Audit Committee discussed this issue and reflected on the current Member Development Programme. It was noted that at present there is compulsory training for members of the Development Control Committee and there has been specific training for licensing. However, membership of other committees is not dependent on undertaking training.
5. With this in mind Audit Committee framed the reference to Cabinet as attached at Appendix 2. Their aim was to secure the support of all three party groups.

Options considered

N/A

Consultation

N/A

Financial Implications

No significant financial implications.

Legal Implications

Appointments to individual committees are made by each political party. In the circumstances, co-operation of the parties is required to ensure that members are fully trained before attending these committees.

Equalities Impact

No direct impact.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report considered by the Audit Committee (circulated in the Cabinet Supporting Documents Pack)
Appendix 2 – Reference from Audit Committee