

Meeting:	Governance, Audit & Risk Management Committee
Date:	22nd January 2009
Subject:	CAA – Are Audit Committees Up To The Challenge?
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Myfanwy Barrett – Corporate Director of Finance
Portfolio Holder:	David Ashton – Council Leader, Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnership & Finance
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - CAA Report – Are Audit Committees Up To The Challenge?

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides feedback from a one-day learning event hosted by the London Borough of Croydon.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

Consider the key messages and questions for the Audit Committee outlined in the feedback report and decide if the GARM Committee needs to take any specific action in preparation for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

Reason: (For recommendation)

To prepare for the introduction of CAA from April 2009

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

- 2.1 On the 18th November 2008 the Divisional Director Audit & Risk and the Service Manager Internal Audit attended a one day learning event hosted by the London Borough of Croydon.
- 2.2 At the event guest speakers discussed key aspects of the Audit Committees' role in light of the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. This included traditional areas of audit, risk management and fraud in addition to the increasing importance of partnership governance. See Appendix 1 for full report.

Key Messages

- 2.3 The following were the key messages of the event:
 - Audit Committees need to consider how to get assurance regarding value for money achievements, outputs and outcomes, not just for the organisation itself, but also in relation to other organisations, partnerships etc.
 - Management of authorities' strategic partnerships are key to success under the CAA regime and Audit Committee play an important role in this. Audit Committees need to consider their role in relation to their authority's strategic partnerships.
- 2.4 By way of a practical example to address this second point, the Committee could request the strategic partners to prepare a self-assessed assurance statement for consideration by the Committee which could be fed into the Annual Governance Statement.

Legal Implications

- 2.5 None.

Financial Implications

- 2.6 None.

Performance Issues

- 2.7 Potential for the GARM Committee to improve its performance ready for CAA.

Risk Management Implications

- 2.8 Potential risk of the GARM Committee being ill prepared for the introduction of CAA from April 2009.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Myfanwy Barrett..... Chief Financial Officer

Date: 5th January 2009

Name: Helen White..... On behalf of Monitoring
Officer

Date: 9th January 2009.....

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Susan Dixson, Service Manager, Internal Audit
Tel: 020 8424 1420

Background Papers: None