

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 September 2016

Report by Clerk

WORK PROGRESSED BY COMMITTEE SINCE 2012 AND SELF-EVALUATION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To propose that a short report be prepared on key aspects of work undertaken by the committee since 2012 and that a further self-evaluation exercised be progressed.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that a short, focussed report on key aspects of work undertaken by the committee since 2012 is prepared and that a self-evaluation exercise is also completed during the forthcoming months.

REVIEW

3. Since an audit committee was first established by the Council in 1999, periodically reports have been prepared overviewing work it has undertaken, including prior to the local government elections in 2007 and 2012. On both occasions this was one of the final issues the committee wished to progress to enable associated information prepared to be made available, for example, to those elected to the Council. Such reports have included an introduction by the Chair, reference to some aspects of the committee's work including those driven by the committee itself and interest taken in various issues. Taking account that it would be useful to reflect again on what the committee has progressed and achieved during the 5-year period 2012-2017, following discussions with the Chair, it is proposed that in consultation with Members of the committee a short, focussed report is prepared on key aspects of work undertaken since 2012.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

4. The review reports prepared in both 2007 and 2012 also summarised the outcome of self-evaluation exercises progressed during the months preceding the local government elections. It is recommended that audit committees review their effectiveness as often as annually. The view of the committee in 2012 was that periodic self-evaluations are useful such as for analysing performance, enhancing practices and identifying how the committee can support the work of the Internal Audit service for example, but that doing this as frequently as annually was neither necessary nor an efficient use of its limited time.

5. In the lead up to the 2007 and 2012 local government elections a self-assessment tool developed by the Audit Committee Institute to help such committees assess their own effectiveness was used by the committee following its adaptation for local authority use.

6. Following discussions with the Chair and whilst acknowledging that the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee is a mature and well established one, it is proposed that a further self-evaluation would be useful and that this be undertaken using the questionnaire developed previously as a focus for this work.

7. Some additional officer support has been made available to assist with some of the work referred to above.

RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that a short, focussed report on key aspects of work undertaken by the committee since 2012 is prepared and that a self-evaluation exercise is also completed during the forthcoming months.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

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