

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****AUDIT COMMITTEE****10 May 2016****Report of the Director of Finance****AUDIT COMMITTEE FORUM****1 Purpose of the Report**

To ask Members to support a proposal to establish an Audit Committee Forum for public bodies in Derbyshire.

**2 Information & Analysis**

The role of member of an Audit Committee is important to the successful delivery of Corporate Governance within local authorities. Similarly, other public bodies have Audit Committees which have different methods of operation but perform the same basic function. It is recognised that there is a lot of good practice in both other public bodies and within external audit forums that can usefully inform and complement the role of Audit Committee member.

An area of good practice has been noted in the way public bodies in Lincolnshire have come together to develop a forum at which shared learning and shared experiences can be combined to good effect. The Lincolnshire Forum involves Audit Committee members from across the County Council, city and district councils, the University of Lincoln, clinical commissioning groups, acute hospital trusts and community & mental health trusts, police and fire authorities meeting together.

This model is supported by KPMG in Lincolnshire and they have expressed a desire to work with us in Derbyshire to establish a forum here. The proposals are:

- **Membership** all local authorities, Office of Police & Crime Commissioner, Fire & Rescue service, Peak District National Park Authority, all CCG & Health trusts, University of Derby - 28 bodies in total.
- **Invitees** All Audit Committee representatives from the organisations mentioned above.
- **Frequency of meetings** If the first meeting is found to be successful then probably

two meetings a year, suggest one in Matlock, one in Derby.

- Duration of meetings      Suggest all day events with lunch provided.

If Members agree it is suggested that the first meeting will take place in July and that the agenda suggested in the Appendix to this report will be worked up with colleagues from KPMG.

The next step will be to write to the Directors of Finance in each of the bodies identified to gauge interest and numbers. As a first step the Directors of Finance at district and borough councils were invited to consider the proposal at a meeting held with them last week, they all indicated their support for the concept.

### **3      Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **4      Background Papers**

Held in Room 102, Corporate Finance Division.

### **5      Officer's Recommendations**

- 5.1      That Members support the principle of a Derbyshire Audit Committee Forum.
- 5.2      That the Chair of Audit Committee and Director of Finance write to each of the public bodies indicated in the report to invite their Audit Committee members to attend.

PETER HANDFORD

Director of Finance

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE FORUM**

**July 2016**

### **AGENDA**

9.30	Arrival and Refreshments
10.00	What makes an Effective Audit Committee (KPMG)?
11.00	Break
11.20	How Risk Awareness & Mitigation contributes to delivery of service (Derbyshire CC)
12.20	Lunch
13.20	Cyber-Crime (KPMG)
14.20	Break
14.40	Rotherham - What to learn from an Audit Committee perspective? (Derbyshire County Council)
15.40	Final summary and questions
16.00	End