

Report to: **Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **18 November 2014**

By: **Kevin Foster, Chief Operating Officer**

Title of report: **CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance**

Purpose of report: **To consider the role of the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee in the appointment and dismissal of the head of internal audit, in accordance with the most recent CIPFA audit committee guidance**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to agree the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 below.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

2. Background

2.1 At its meeting on 5 September 2014, the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee (ABVCSSC) considered a report setting out the latest guidance from CIPFA on the function and operation of audit committees.

2.2 In terms of overseeing internal audit, the guidance states that this should include involvement in the appointment and removal of the head of internal audit. This is not currently the position in East Sussex County Council (the Council) and further consideration has therefore been given to this by Statutory Officers Group with a view to making recommendations to ABVCSSC on the most appropriate way of incorporating the CIPFA guidance within the Council's local procedures and arrangements.

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 Having due regard to the 'Officer Employment Procedure Rules' as set out in the Constitution (Part 4 (9)), specifically, in relation to recruitment, appointment and dismissal, it is recommended that:

3.1.1 Recruitment and appointment:

- (i) The Chair of the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee to be invited to form part of a stakeholder panel to take part in the recruitment process; and
- (ii) the recommendation(s) of this stakeholder panel are fed into the final Officer decision making process.

3.1.2 Dismissal

- (i) the Chair of the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be informed of any proposal to dismiss the head of internal audit (Head of Assurance) and their view taken into consideration; and

- (ii) from a procedural perspective, this will mean that the Chair of the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be able to put forward their opinion about any allegation(s) as part of the disciplinary investigation process. In the context of an Appeal to Members, the Chair of the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be able to address the Member Appeal Panel should they wish do so.

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Local Member: All