

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report sets out the Audit Committee's activities during the past 12 months in connection with the financial year 2008/9.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To note the report and accept it as compliance with Derby Homes Scheme of Delegation in respect of:

- the Chair of Audit Committee making an annual presentation to the Board on the Committee's activities
- the Chair of Audit Committee's presence at the Annual General Meeting to answer questions through the Chair of the Board.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Background

The Audit Committee has met throughout 2008/9. It held meetings on 3 occasions throughout the year in March, May and July 2009. The year has been a time of flux for the Audit Committee with the replacement of the Chair and changes to membership.

3.2 Activities

The past year has been very busy for the members of the Committee. The Committee's business can be split into:

3.3 Developing an Effective Audit Committee

It has achieved this by:

- reviewing the experience of its membership and selecting a Chair with significant and relevant financial experience
- establishing an ongoing programme of training for the Chair and Committee Members which is reviewed at each meeting
- attending Committee training events
- recommending the appointment of Committee members with appropriate skills to add value to the work of the Committee.

3.4 Monitoring Financial Integrity

It has achieved this by:

- approving the external audit strategy for 2008/9
- approving the internal audit plan for 2008/9
- receiving and evaluating the external audit management letters following the interim and final audit for 2008/9
- reporting to the Board on the 2008/9 accounts and providing additional support and reassurance to Board members enabling them to adopt the accounts for 2008/9
- overseeing the implementation of a process supporting the production of a Statement of Internal Control for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, Auditor's Report to Members and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2009.

3.5 Monitoring and Reviewing Internal Financial Control

It has done this by:

- scrutinising internal audit reports and questioning responsible officers at Committee meetings
- holding Executive officers accountable and probing potential areas of weakness.

3.6 I would like to record my appreciation and thanks for the time and effort Committee members have given to the important role of the Committee during the past year. I look forward to working with them during the next year.

3.7 I would also like to record my thanks to the officers from Derby Homes, Derby City Council and PKF LLP who attend and support the work of the Committee.

4. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

The Chair of Audit Committee will be available to answer questions through the Chair of the Board at the Annual General Meeting.

5. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Derby Homes Scheme of Delegation undertakes to provide the Committee with sufficient resources to undertake its duties. The cost of this will be contained within the operating budget.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report

- Legal and Confidentiality
- Personnel
- Environmental
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Health & Safety
- Risk

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or the Chief Executive,
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Background Information: None.

Supporting Information: None.