

## **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.