

Motions on Notice by Members

(1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor C A Vinson will move:

“This Council notes that:

- Openness is one of the 7 Nolan Principles of public life, which states that information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.
- The Accounts and Audits Regulations 2015 require the Council to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit.
- The Council’s Constitution requires the Governance Committee to receive internal audit reports, approve the audit programme and ensure the internal audit service is sufficiently resourced. It also requires the Committee to agree and periodically review the Terms of Reference for the internal audit function.
- At present, Portfolio Holders and Shadow Portfolio Holders are not always involved in the internal audit process and completed reports on Council services and functions are not consistently shared with them once finalised.

As such, this Council believes that:

- The East Kent Audit Partnership is an excellent example of how cross-authority shared services arrangements can work well for the benefit of the Council, its Members, Officers and the public they serve.
- In line with the Nolan principle of openness, internal audit reports should be routinely shared with the relevant portfolio holder and shadow portfolio upon completion.

And agrees that:

The Council’s Financial Procedure Rules, as set out in the Constitution, should be amended to replace the current clause 4.5 with the following (new wording shown in bold):

“A four-year Strategic Plan will be prepared by the Head of Audit Partnership, which will be approved by the Governance Committee. A one-year Operational Plan will be prepared each year from the Strategic Plan. **The Head of Audit Partnership will share a final report on each element of the Plan, and any follow up reports on actions identified, with the relevant Heads of Service, Portfolio Holder(s) and Shadow Portfolio**

Holder(s) as they are completed. The Head of Audit Partnership will report the work performed against the Plan to the Governance Committee on a quarterly basis.”