

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny
DATE	20 November 2014
DIRECTOR	Ewan Sutherland (Acting)
TITLE OF REPORT	Development of Elected Members – Update
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/14/095

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of members of this committee, since the last meeting of 23 September 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

that the Committee note the content of the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications – all training is being provided in house.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Staff in democratic services, finance, customer service and performance, human resources, internal audit are contributing to, and delivering training.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 At its meeting of 27 February 2014, members approved a programme of development for members of this committee. An update on the programme is provided below:

<i>Date</i>		<i>Event</i>	<i>Update</i>
Short term	March	Shareholders Scrutiny Group training for all members of the new Group (including trades union members) – Angela Scott to lead.	Held on 3 March, 8 attendees (including two TU reps).

March	Specific training for trades union members of the Shareholder Scrutiny Group on the Code of Conduct (which they will be required to sign up to) – Democratic Services to lead.	Held on 7 April, Unison TU rep attended.
	Session 1 – an overview of the role of the Audit and Risk Committee – Angela Scott to lead.	All A&R committee members have now attended.
April	Session 2 – an overview of the system of risk management and understanding the Audit and Risk Committee's role in examining the system of risk management – Community Planning and Performance Manager to lead.	All A&R committee members have now attended.
May	Session 3 – an overview of the internal audit control environment, and the Audit and Risk Committee's role in terms of questioning the reports it receives from internal audit on the internal control environment – Internal Audit to lead.	All A&R committee members have now attended.
June	Session 4 – an overview of the Audit and Risk Committee's responsibilities in terms of the financial reporting statements of Council – Finance Team to lead.	4 members to attend final session – date scheduled for November
November	New members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee to undertake the training identified as Sessions 1 – 4	In progress

TBC	Members of the Audit and Risk Committee to visit members of the Audit Committees of a local authority and another public sector body.	Deferred until new Committee have been trained.
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5.2 Feedback from Session 4:

- An excellent question and answer session clarified areas of doubt
- The relaxed approach and the organised presentation
- I will certainly be chasing up the implementation of agreed actions on the reports
- It was short and to the point. Key issues were explored in a measured way
- Thanks for being so patient in rescheduling.

6. IMPACT

Developing members in the area of the governance and scrutiny of arms length external organisations (ALEOs) should lead to an improvement in the governance and decision making in this area. Developing members' roles in the Audit and Risk Committee will strengthen the scrutiny and risk management arrangements of Council.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The recommendations address the risks identified in the report "Roles and Responsibilities – Is Aberdeen City Council Getting It Right?" and aim to reduce risk relating to ALEOs.

It is important that members are in a position to properly scrutinise committee papers and have a clear understanding of their responsibilities around risk management. This report seeks to address this and improve members' confidence and competency in these areas.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Designing a Positive Framework Governance with Arms Length External Organisations – Audit and Risk Committee 27 February 2014

Elected Members Development – Audit and Risk Committee 27 February 2014, 7 May 2014 and 26 June 2014.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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