


Audit Committees


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Nottinghamshire
County Council

Purpose of Audit Committees


- Key component of our governance framework
- Provide independent assurance (to those charged with governance) over:-
- Internal control environment
- Integrity of financial reporting
- Risk management framework



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Influential Audit Committee (1)

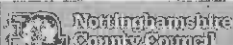
- Good governance
- Effective internal controls
- Effective audit and assurance
- Embedding ethical values and countering fraud
- Improving reporting and accountability



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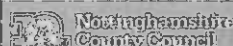
Influential Audit Committee (2)

- Achievement of goals
- Improving value for money
- Effective risk management



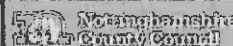
Core functions (1)

- Annual Governance Statement
- Internal Audit
- Risk Management
- Assurance Frameworks and Assurance Planning
- Value for Money and Best Value
- Countering Fraud and Corruption



Core Functions (2)

- External Audit
- Financial Reporting
- Partnership Governance



Independence and accountability (1)

- Act as principal non-executive advisory function supporting those charged with governance
- Independent of executive and scrutiny functions
- Rights of access to other committees / functions
- Accountable to Authority's board



Independence and accountability (2)

- Meet regularly
- Able to meet privately with external auditor and head of internal audit
- Right to call on any officers or agencies of the Council
- Report regularly on their work



Membership and Effectiveness

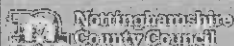
- Membership is balanced, objective, independent of mind, knowledgeable, trained for the role
- Supportive of good governance
- Strong independently minded chair
- Unbiased attitudes
- Ability to challenge when required



What can go wrong?

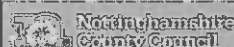
Examples of cases where governance have failed:-

Local Government
Health Service
Other

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Characteristics of failed governance

- Happens over time
- Failure to address concerns / known weaknesses
- DISCUSS?

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Questions



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