

## **Audit and Scrutiny Panel – Report from Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE (Chairman)**

1. At the first meeting of the new political cycle, the Audit and Scrutiny Panel agreed their work programme for the year. In its first year, the Panel focused on audit, and in particular on reviewing the Group's internal audit programme. This year the Panel will also undertake a number of scrutiny reviews.
2. The Panel agreed the internal audit programme for 2011/12 which is being undertaken by the Group's newly appointed internal auditors, Parkhill. The programme has been developed, taking into account the internal audit findings from 2010/11 as well as the strategic risk register and also findings from the external auditors, KPMG.
3. The LG Group's risk management policy was reviewed by the Panel along with the Group's strategic risk register.
4. The Panel agreed the approach to performance reporting for 2011/12 and also proposals for a scrutiny programme. Members asked for the scrutiny review of direct support to councils to be carried out this year, given the pressing need to communicate the benefits of membership to councils. A scrutiny review of corporate overheads will also be carried out in 2011/12.
5. The Panel received an update on matters raised at its last meeting in July including document management and sickness absence. Members asked for sickness levels to be kept under close review, while recognising that sickness levels had fallen in the last six months.

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