

Questionnaire for the Members of the Audit Committee - Responses

Question	Response
1	How do you think the Audit Committee has performed over the course of the year?
2	Do you think the Audit Committee has addressed the correct subjects? If not, what subjects would you like to see included in its agenda?
3	What is your view on the quality of the reports received?
4	Is the level of detail correct?
5	What improvements would you like to see in reports?
6	Is it helpful to have Grant Thornton present at 3 meetings?

a. Worked effectively.
b. Reasonably well, considering low level of expertise of some members.
c. I have thoroughly enjoyed the work which we undertook; there were times when I was not sure , other times that I was convinced that my thinking was right and at all times I valued the work of the Officers who contributed to a meaningful year's efforts.

a. Need to concentrate on issues around the finance and operational delivery of services. Are we getting value for money?
b. Yes, so far, but probably not all the ones we should have.
c. The audit committee's focus is ensuring best value for money, cutting costs without negative impact on quality of services and reducing costs as much as possible in a time of austerity. I believe that we worked hard to focus on and address these priorities.

a. Very good.
b. Excellent.
c. As always, the quality and depth of the reports were always spot on and I much valued the input of the Officers' when clarification or further explanation was needed.

a. Yes.
b. In most cases, yes.
c. There were times when I felt a little bogged down by technicalities, but always when seeking an explanation, the officers were happy to break down jargon into layperson's language; this greatly assisted me in understanding the sometimes complex information detailed in accounts and reports.

a. n/a
b. Impossible to answer as this varies from one subject to another.
c. I am struggling to find an area to comment on, except proofreading which would be beneficial; as the reports were timely and as I mentioned previously, when there were a lot of details, then these were readily explained by the officers present. Bami is always so helpful and willing to explain to those of us who are not as au fait as he is in this area.

a. Twice a year should be adequate - Once to present audit, once to outline future work programme.

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		<p>b. No – one p.a. would probably be enough, with a report at the 2nd (and/or 3rd if they must).</p> <p>c. I found Grant Thornton's expertise and presence both useful and insightful in allowing me to understand the processes of auditing and financial administration. Not that I now fully understand, anyway. I feel that I was just beginning to grasp important concepts, but now I have moved onto another committee.</p>
7	<p>a) Do you think your personal contribution has been effective?</p> <p>b) What steps do you think could be taken to improve your personal contribution further?</p>	<p>a. Never enough.</p> <p>b. But of course (otherwise I wouldn't keep coming!)</p> <p>c. I am not so sure. However, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being on this committee</p> <p>a. Would have to burden the Officers with more pre-Committee questions.</p> <p>b. More time in my personal life to devote to reading reports more thoroughly and researching before meetings. I am fortunate that I can think on the go, but this does not excuse doing the homework.</p> <p>c. I sadly missed some of the training sessions due to my day job and sometimes, other commitments. But definitely training in small doses is always useful. I would benefit from attending sessions when these are available, as I do not have a financial background and for me it is doubly difficult, unless I have the opportunity to learn, practice, make mistakes and learn from those!</p>
8	Any other comments	<p>a. None.</p> <p>b. I will miss this - as I am being moved to another committee.</p> <p>c. I wish to thank all the Officers for their commitment, their time, their patience, their willingness to always offer support and for putting up with my ignorance , most often than not!! You are great assets to SDC. Thank you for making my learning and my time on the committee a much valued experience.</p>