

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

28 MARCH 2017

### ITEM NO 11 - AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Duveen to move:

Council notes that the recent Audit Report by Ernst & Young pointed out an anomaly in the make-up of the Audit and Governance Committee. In their words:

*'We identified that both the Leader and Deputy Leader are members of the A & G Committee. Guidance issued by CIPFA indicates that leadership of the Council should not be represented on the Committee. We recommend that the composition of the Committee be reviewed.'*

This Council recognises that having Lead Councillors sitting on the Committee, part of whose job is to scrutinise their own work and decisions, will not be seen by the citizens of Reading as either unbiased or independent in its role of auditing and scrutinising the work of the Council.

Although the Ernst and Young report called for a review of the make-up of the A & G Committee, this Council accepts the guidance offered by CIPFA and recognises that in the interests of good governance Lead Councillors should not serve on the A & G Committee.

The simplest and quickest way to resolve this anomaly is for the Lead Councillors to stand down from the Committee. There is no need to instigate a full review of the composition of the A & G Committee.

This Council therefore requires that Lead Councillors should stand down from this Committee and asks the Administration to appoint members of the Committee who are not Lead Councillors.