

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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**CABINET
15 FEBRUARY 2012**

REFERENCE FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE

**A? RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – DISABLEDGO
AND MEMBER REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
(Report prepared by Richard Barrett)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present to Cabinet two recommendations from the Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

At their meeting on 19 January 2012, the Audit Committee considered a report on DisabledGo in addition to an update on progress against an outstanding action relating to membership of outside bodies, following which the Committee made two recommendations to Cabinet as set out below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet determines what further actions it wishes to take in response to the Audit Committee’s recommendations.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Risk assessment, monitoring and control forms the central tool for managing the strategic risks that may prevent the Council achieving its priorities.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance, Other Resources and Risk

Although there are no financial implications or risks directly associated with this report, further considerations may be required subject to Cabinet’s proposed response to the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

LEGAL

There are no specific legal implications.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

There are no other direct implications.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

DisabledGo

At their meeting on 26 October 2011, Cabinet resolved (minute 63 refers):

(c) That Cabinet requests that the Audit Committee add to their work programme an audit of the £45,000 that this Council paid towards the DisabledGo scheme in order to give explanation and assurances to Members that this money was spent appropriately as well as transparently.

In order to expedite this audit it was agreed with the Audit Committee Chairman that this would go ahead so that the outcome could be reported back to the next meeting of the Committee. The next meeting of the Committee was held on 19 January 2012, where the Audit Committee considered a report by the Head of Resource Management which set out the outcome from the associated review and resolved (minute 29 refers):

That Cabinet be informed that:-

(a) Following a review of the relevant information and subsequent discussions in response to the request from Cabinet, the Committee are satisfied that expenditure was incurred in accordance with the agreed DisabledGo budget and with appropriate transparency.

(b) However, against the background of the financial challenges currently faced by the Council, the Committee feels that the Council should look to identify an alternative approach, such as an in-house solution, to provide a reasonable and cost effective reference point for residents and visitors to Tendring, which could include working with the voluntary sector, to be concluded within three months.

Membership of Outside Bodies

As part of its annual work programme, the Audit Committee considered the progress against an outstanding action relating to membership of outside bodies at its meeting on 19 January 2012 and resolved (minute 31(b) refers):

That Cabinet be made aware that the review of the Membership of Outside Bodies has been on the Committee's Table of Outstanding Issues for a significant period of time and that the Committee feels that it is now very important that this review should be completed by the time of the next meeting of the Committee in March 2012 as the Committee feels that this is now having an adverse effect on the reputation of the Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

None