

Corporate Governance and Standards Committee Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer (Sec 151)

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Internal Audit Annual Plan 2023-24

Executive Summary

Appendix 1 presents the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24 in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee is requested to approve the Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure good governance arrangements and internal control by undertaking an adequate level of audit coverage.

Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication? No

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24 to the Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (see Appendix 1).

2. Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 The audit of Council services supports the priority of providing efficient, cost effective and relevant quality public services that give the community value for money.

3. Background

- 3.1 The aim of internal audit's work programme is to provide independent and objective assurance to management, in relation to the business activities; systems or processes under review that:
- The framework of internal control, risk management and governance is appropriate and operating effectively; and
 - Risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives are identified, assessed and managed to a defined acceptable level.
- 3.2 The Internal Audit Plan provides the mechanism through which the Chief Internal Auditor can ensure most appropriate use of internal audit resources to provide a clear statement of assurance on risk management, internal control and governance arrangements.
- 3.3 Internal audit focus should remain proportionate and appropriately aligned to key areas of organisational risk.
- 3.4 All auditable areas of review remain within the audit universe and are subject to ongoing assessment. The audit plan will remain fluid to ensure that internal audit is able to react to the changing needs of the Council.
- 3.5 Other reviews, based on criteria other than risk, may also be built into the work plan. These may include 'mandatory' audits or reviews requested or commissioned by management. Any commissioned review must be able to clearly demonstrate a contribution to the audit opinion on risk management, control and governance.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 provides a copy of the draft Internal Audit Plan 2023-24 for review and comment.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

6. Human Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no human resource implications as a result of this report.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to approve the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24, all as set out in Appendix 1 to this covering report.

8. Background Papers

None

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Internal Audit Annual Plan 2023-24