

Audit Committee

26th November 2018



Report of: Interim Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Internal Audit Quality Assurance Improvement Programme

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Jonathan Idle – Interim Chief Internal Auditor

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Recommendation

The Audit Committee to approve the Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP).

Summary

In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), Internal Audit is required to maintain a QAIP and report against it in its Annual Report to the Committee.

This QAIP is presented to the Audit Committee for consideration and approval, as required by the PSIAS.

Significant Matters Arising:

- The outlining of the internal and external quality assurance mechanisms for the Internal Audit service.
- The QAIP is provided at Appendix A to this report.



1. Policy

The PSIAS require the Internal Audit service within the organisation to set out its quality assurance arrangements in the form of a QAIP. The monitoring of performance against the QAIP must be assessed and reported to the Audit Committee on an annual basis.

2. Consultation

Internal – CLB including S151 Officer, Cabinet Member for Governance, Resources and Finance.
External – N/A

3. Context

3.1 The PSIAS sets out the requirement for a QAIP:

“The chief audit executive must develop and maintain a quality assurance and improvement programme that covers all aspects of internal audit activity.”

3.2 The proposed QAIP sets out how this process will work. Reporting against the QAIP will be included in the Annual Internal Audit report.

4. Proposal

4.1 The Audit Committee considers and approves the updated Internal Audit QAIP.

5. Other Options Considered – N/A

6. Risk Assessment

The work of Internal Audit minimises the risk of failures in the Council’s internal control, risk management and governance arrangements, reduces fraud and other losses and increases the potential for prevention and detection of such issues. The PSIAS provide for an effective independent and objective Internal Audit Service, ensuring a good standard of service to the organisation, whilst at the same time providing the Internal Audit Service with wider support in terms of maintaining its independence and freedom from influence.

Public Sector Equality Duties

7a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.

- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

7b) No Equality Impact anticipated from this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – N/A
Financial – N/A
Land – N/A
Personnel – N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A – Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.