

Audit Committee

22 March 2021



Report of: Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Internal Audit Draft Plan 2021/22

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Simba Muzarurwi – Chief Internal Auditor

Recommendation

The Audit Committee review and approve the draft Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22. In doing so, the Committee should consider:

- whether the Plan addresses the Committee's assurance needs;
- whether the Plan captures key areas that would be expected; and
- whether there are any significant gaps in the Plan.

Consistent with the agreed rolling audit planning approach which was adopted in 2020/21 in response to uncertainty of the operating environment due to Covid-19, this high level plan that indicates potential areas of audit activities will be reviewed by the Audit Committee quarterly.

Summary

The report provides the Audit Committee with the Audit Plan for 2021/22.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The methodologies used to formulate the Annual Audit Plan; (Section 2 of Appendix A)
- Resourcing the plan. (Section 3 of Appendix A)
- Key features of the plan. (Section 4 of Appendix A)
- Plan delivery and performance monitoring. (Section 5 of Appendix A)
- The Internal Audit Plan. (Appendices 1 and 2 of Appendix A)



Policy

1. Audit Committee Terms of Reference.

Consultation

2. Internal

- The Corporate Leadership Board
- Executive Directorate Management Teams
- Monitoring Officer
- S.151 Officer
- Other Management

3. External

- External Auditors – Grant Thornton
- Internal Audit Strategic Partner - KPMG

Context

4. The Audit Committee has a strategic role to ensure that the Council's assurance framework is operating effectively. To this end, it should seek assurance that the key areas that contribute to this framework are operating properly.
5. The Council's Internal Audit service is a key component of the assurance framework and the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference includes a requirement to provide independent assurance to the Council in relation to internal audit activity. The Audit Committee need to consider if the planned Internal Audit work is appropriate and sufficient to provide the Committee with the assurance it requires. Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013 include guidance that the Committee should review and approve the Internal Audit work plan.

Proposal

6. The Audit Committee review and approve the draft Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22. In doing so, the Committee should ensure that plan reflects the areas for which they will require assurance from Internal Audit in 2021/22.

As this is a rolling plan, the Audit Committee is also requested to agree priorities for Quarter 1 as proposed in Appendix A. The priorities for the subsequent periods of the financial year will be agreed quarterly as part of the plan review.

Other Options Considered

7. None Necessary.

Risk Assessment

8. An adequate and effective internal audit service, as well as a statutory requirement, is an integral part of good governance. A sound Internal Audit planning process minimises the risk of

non-compliance with statute and good practice, and at the same time maximises the value that Internal Audit adds to the Council's governance arrangements and internal control environment.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) 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.
- 8b) No equalities assessment necessary for this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – Not applicable

Financial

(a) Revenue – Not applicable

(b) Capital – Not applicable

Land/Property - Not applicable

Human Resources - Not applicable

Appendices:

- **Appendix (A) – Internal Audit Draft Plan 2021/22**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Audit Planning Files, Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers, Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.