

TITLE: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023/24

Committee: Audit Committee

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1. The report seeks the Committee's approval of the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1. That the Committee approves the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24.

2.2. That the Committee approves delegation to the Finance Director, in consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee, to approve amendments to the Internal Audit Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1. The role of Internal Audit is to provide the Audit Committee, and management, with independent assurance on the effectiveness of the internal control environment. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that the Chief Internal Auditor must "establish risk based plans to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the organisation's goals" and "must communicate the internal audit activity's plans and resource requirements, including significant interim changes, to senior management (Corporate Management Team) and the board (Audit Committee) for review and approval".

3.2. The Internal Audit plan for 2023/24 has been developed based on an assessment of the Council's Corporate Plan and Risk Register, and in consultation with senior management. The Audit Committee was also consulted in January 2023 for any areas to be considered in the development of the Audit Plan. The Chief Internal Auditor has also considered the Internal Audit coverage over the last four years and any areas where audit assurances or follow up work may be of value.

3.3. The draft audit plan is provided in Appendix 1, along with details on the audit planning process. Also included in Appendix 1 is a reserve list of other risk areas identified for consideration in the audit planning process, and the proposed action if these are not to be covered in 2023/24.

3.4. In March 2022, the Audit Committee approved the Audit Plan for 2022/23, which included an indicative plan for 2023/24. It is considered best practice to keep audit coverage under regular review, to ensure the plan is consistently risk based and responsive to changes in the Council's risk environment. As such, modern audit

plans are generally expected to be set annually and subject to in year review. The audit planning for 2023/24 has included consideration of those areas in the indicative plan, a number of which are included in the proposed plan and the others are included in the reserve list for completeness,

- 3.5. In order to support the Internal Audit service in being responsive to changes in the risk environment, it is recommended that a delegation be approved to enable the Chief Internal Auditor to obtain approval for in year amendments to the plan from the s151 Officer and Chair of the Audit Committee. Any such amendments would be reported at the subsequent meeting of the Audit Committee.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSION(S)

- 4.1. The attached report (Appendix 1) provides the Committee with the proposed Internal Audit plan for 2023/24 for approval.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. Equality and Carbon Impact Assessments are not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Plan 2023/24

Background Documents:

None