



Internal Audit Plan 2013/14

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards state that the Head of Audit must establish risk-based plans to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the organisation's goals.
- 1.2 A fundamental role of Internal Audit is to provide members and senior management with independent assurance on the Council's overall control environment, comprising the systems of governance, risk management, and internal control and to highlight control weaknesses together with recommendations for improvement. The annual Audit Plan sets out proposals on how this will be achieved in the year ahead.
- 1.3 The Audit Plan must incorporate sufficient work to enable the Head of Audit to give an opinion on the adequacy of the Council's overall control environment. Internal Audit must therefore have sufficient resources to deliver the Audit Plan.
- 1.4 The audit work planned for 2013/14 will inform the Head of Audit's opinion on the internal control environment that exists within the Council. The Head of Audit reports his overall opinion to the Audit and Accounts Committee on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and approve the 2013/14 internal audit plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference of the Audit & Accounts Committee requires that it considers and approves the annual internal audit plan. Members of the Audit and Accounts Committee have the opportunity to review, challenge and approve the planned work of the Internal Audit service, as well as satisfying themselves that the methodology and arrangements for preparing the annual Audit Plan are robust.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The Internal Audit Plan document for 2013/14 is attached at Appendix 2. The plan document outlines the processes used in developing the plan. The overall draft audit plan went to Chief Officer Group for consideration on 13 March 2013.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	Strategic Directors

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Internal Audit Plan 2013/14

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

- 2.1 Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the Council is required to maintain an effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None directly arising.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None directly arising.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly arising.

Risk Management

- 8.1 Internal Audit provides the organisation with objective assurance on whether the major business risks are being managed appropriately and provides assurance that the risk management and internal control framework is operating effectively.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Internal Audit contributes through its review work on the major corporate risks to the

Council achieving corporate objectives and priorities. This is achieved by the audit of key systems and corporate governance issues and the associated risks. The work of Internal Audit is also relevant to the priority of 'value for money'.