

Audit and Governance Committee

20th March 2019

INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2019/20

WARDS AFFECTED

All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

No

1.0 PROPOSED DECISION

Members are requested to approve the Internal Audit Plan 2019/20.

2.0 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECISION

2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee require it to approve the Internal Audit Plan, Performance and Annual Outturn report and consider reports from the Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding audit reviews and issues.

3.0 FACTS SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED DECISION

3.1 Sound and robust internal control and risk management frameworks are essential elements of good corporate governance and the Internal Audit Service, Audit and Governance Committee and the Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel are key elements of these arrangements.

3.2 The requirement to maintain an effective Internal Audit Service, operating to legislative and professional standards, is specified within:-

- ✓ the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and to fulfil statutory Section 151 responsibilities of the Deputy Chief Executive/Strategic Director of Corporate Services;
- ✓ CIPFA guidance detailing proper practice and arrangements in order to inform the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- ✓ Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) (Revised March 2017)

3.3 The work of the Audit and Financial Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Panel is determined by the annual Internal Audit Plan that provides details of the reviews to be undertaken in the year. In relation to audit matters the Panel is required to:-

- ✓ Receive the internal audit plan and the annual report of internal audit activity within the year;
- ✓ Consider internal and any external audit reports and to request of the relevant

service officers any explanations in relation to the findings of the reports as the Committee deems necessary;

- ✓ Monitor progress against the agreed action plans included in the audit reports;
- ✓ Provide a summary of internal audit reports and confirmation that action has been taken where necessary to the Audit and Governance Committee.

4.0 RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED DECISION

4.1 The agreement and delivery of the Internal Audit Plan, and the monitoring of the implementation of agreed actions arising from Internal Audit reports are essential to sound governance arrangements.

4.2 A failure to undertake this would not enable an independent opinion or assurance to be given to Council as to the adequacy, suitability and effectiveness of the control environment, which is a key component in the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 PREVIOUS APPROVAL/CONSULTATION

None.

7.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS THEREOF

None

8.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Audit Plan 2019/20

Cath Fogarty
Strategic Director of Corporate Services

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following documents were used to complete this report and are available for public inspection for four years from the date of the meeting from the Contact Officer named above:

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) April 2013 (Revised March 2017)