

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk
Date of Meeting	16 November 2017

INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Internal Audit Strategic Plan, which sets out the medium term direction of the Internal Audit service, outlining what the priorities of the service will be going forward and what actions will be taken to address these.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Internal Audit Strategic Plan.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Internal Audit Strategic Plan is developed to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards which the team must comply with.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Internal Audit Strategic Plan sets out the medium term direction of the Internal Audit service. This three year plan outlines what the priorities of the service will be going forward and what actions will be taken to address these. The plan sets out how Internal Audit can continue to provide an adequate level of assurance whilst taking account of the resource limitations.

5.2 The Strategic Plan is supported by the Audit Charter, which sets out the roles and responsibilities of internal audit, the Annual Audit Plan which outlines the internal audit work which will be undertaken each year and the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme which outlines service development actions.

5.3 The Internal Audit Strategic Plan covers the following key areas and the approach to be taken by the Internal Audit Team for addressing these:

- Alignment to Council Priorities
- Provision Arrangements
- Specialist Audit Areas
- Reporting Lines
- Structure
- Performance Management and Quality Control
- Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme
- SWOT Analysis
- Key Priorities
- Risk Management

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 9(a) – Internal Audit Strategic Plan 2018-2021

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 There is a statutory duty to provide an internal audit service and the delivery of this plan will ensure that this requirement is met.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 The plan will be delivered with existing staff resource.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The plan will be delivered within existing budget constraints.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The primary role of Internal Audit is to provide assurance that the Council is effectively managing its risks and provide support to all services in relation to risk and control.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The plan has been developed in conjunction with the Internal Audit Team at a service improvement event held on the 8 September 2017 and approved by the Corporate Leadership Team on the 17 October 2017.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.