

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk
Date of Meeting:	30 September 2021

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the outcome of the external assessment to determine whether the internal audit team conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Audit Committee is asked to note to content of the report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Council has effective internal audit processes in place.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The work of the internal audit team contributes to the achievement of all of the Council's priorities.

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require that an external assessment of an organisation's internal audit function is carried out once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team. External assessments can be in the form of a full external assessment, or a self-assessment with independent external validation.

6.2 An independent external validation process was used for this assessment as approved by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and Audit Committee in June 2019. The Council's internal audit team carried out a self-assessment of compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards which was reported to CLT and Audit Committee in 2020 prior to the external validation taking place in June/July 2021.

6.3 Overall it has been identified that the Council's internal audit team continues to conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards with no significant recommendations for improvement made.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 11(a) – External Assessment of Internal Audit

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 All work has been delivered within the agreed budget for Audit and Risk Services.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 All principal local authorities and other relevant bodies subject to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (amended), the Accounts and Audit (Wales) regulations 2005, section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Amendment to the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 must make provision for internal audit in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) as well as the (CIPFA) Local Government Application Note.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The assessment has identified that the internal audit service is effectively delivering a risk based internal audit service.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 The outcome of the external assessment has been considered in terms of any impacts on equality and it is not felt that the proposed recommendations would result in direct/indirect discrimination. The report has also been assessed according to the three criteria of the Public Sector Duty. The proposal will not adversely affect our responsibility to tackle discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and support greater community cohesion.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.