

Report to:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Tracy Greenhalgh – Head of Audit and Risk

Date of Meeting

16 June 2022

INTERNAL AUDIT QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2022/2023

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme 2022/2023 for the internal Audit Service.
- 1.2 It is a requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards that a Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme is implemented for the internal audit team and approved by senior management and the Audit Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme for the internal audit service for 2022/23.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The completion of a Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme is a requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
- 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 Internal Audit's Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) is designed to provide reasonable assurance to stakeholders of internal audit that the service:

- Performs its work in accordance with its Charter which conforms to the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS);
- Operates in an effective and efficient manner; and
- Is perceived by stakeholders as adding value and improving operations.

Internal Audit's QAIP covers all aspects of the Internal Audit Service in accordance with the PSIAS Standard 1300 (Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme), including:

- Monitoring the internal audit activity to ensure it operates in an effective and efficient manner;
- Ensuring compliance with the PSIAS' Definition of Internal Auditing and Code of Ethics;
- Helping the Internal Audit service add value and improve organisational operations;
- Undertaking both periodic and on-going internal assessments;
- Commissioning an external assessment at least once every five years, the results of which are communicated to the Audit Committee and Corporate Leadership Team in accordance with the Standards.

The Head of Audit and Risk is ultimately responsible for the QAIP, which covers all types of internal audit activity, including advice and consulting.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 7(a) – Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme 2022/23.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 All identified improvement actions will be delivered within the allocated budget for the service.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 All work undertaken by Risk Services is in line with relevant legislation and professional standards.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The results of the external assessment of internal audit (August 2021) have been a key driver in formulating the Quality Assurance and Improvement Action plan to ensure an independent view of the risk in the internal audit team.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Having considered the action plan it is not deemed that any of the identified actions will be in breach of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 It is not deemed that any of the identified actions will have a negative impact on the environment / climate change agenda.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 All of the Internal Audit Team were involved in a service improvement day on the 26 April 2022 which was a key session to inform the production of the action plan. The document was considered by the Corporate Leadership Team on the 17 May 2022.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 N/a