

## Harborough District Council

### Report to Audit & Standards Committee Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023



<b>Title:</b>	Internal Audit Plan 2023/24
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N/A
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<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr James Hallam
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix A: Internal Audit Plan 2023/24

### Summary

- i. The report provides the Committee with a draft Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 and seeks the Committee's approval of the plan, for delivery by the Internal Audit service from April 2023.

### Recommendations

- ii. That the Audit and Standards Committee:  
**1. Approve the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24.**

### Reasons for Recommendations

- iii. To comply with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards which require the annual audit plan to be developed taking into account the organisation's risk management framework and in consultation with senior management and the 'Audit Committee'.

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a risk based Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 for the Committee's review and approval, in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 North Northamptonshire Council is commissioned to provide 235 audit days to deliver Harborough District Council's annual Internal Audit Plan.
- 2.2 In setting the annual Audit Plan, the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require:
  - 2.2.1 The audit plan should be developed taking into account the organisation's risk management framework and based upon a risk assessment process undertaken with senior management and the Audit Committee;
  - 2.2.2 The audit plan should be reviewed and approved by an effective and engaged Audit Committee to confirm that the plan addresses their assurance requirements for the year ahead; and
  - 2.2.3 The Chief Internal Auditor should consider accepting proposed consulting engagements based on the engagement's potential to improve management of risks, add value and improve the organisation's operations.

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 In order to ensure that the Audit Plan for 2023/24 addresses the Council's key risks and adds value to the organisation, the Chief Internal Auditor has sought to identify and prioritise the areas for coverage by:
  - 3.1.1 Reviewing the Council's Risk Registers and Corporate Plan;
  - 3.1.2 Analysing coverage of Internal Audit reviews over the last four years and the assurance opinions provided following each review, to identify any assurance gaps or areas where follow up work would be of value;
  - 3.1.3 Identifying any other sources of assurance for each of the Council's key risks, which may reduce the added value of an Internal Audit review and where work could be aligned with other assurance providers;
  - 3.1.4 Identifying any areas of the Audit Universe (a list of potential areas for audit review across the Council) which have not been subject to Internal Audit review during the last four years;
  - 3.1.5 Assessment of any risk areas highlighted by members of the Audit & Standards Committee where they require assurances from Internal Audit during 2023/24; and
  - 3.1.6 Meeting with members of Corporate Management Team to discuss key risks and emerging risk areas for the year ahead and any areas where Internal Audit support would be beneficial either in an assurance or consultancy role.
- 3.2 Potential areas for audit coverage have been assessed and prioritised for inclusion in the Audit Plan, in consultation with Corporate Management Team - based on risk, other sources of assurance available and potential value added from internal audit engagement.

## **4. Implications of Decisions**

### **Corporate Priorities**

4.1 The Internal Audit Plan is linked to the Council's Corporate Priorities and the processes and practices needed to support the delivery of the priorities.

### **Financial**

4.2 The Audit Plan will be based on 235 audit days, as per the delegation agreement.

### **Legal**

4.3 No legal issues directly arising from this report.

### **Policy**

4.4 No policy issues directly arising from this report.

### **Environmental Implications**

4.5 No implications directly arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

4.6 The Audit Plan will be informed by the Council's risk management framework and will seek to provide assurance over management of key risks.

### **Equalities Impact**

4.7 No implications directly arising from this report.

### **Data Protection**

4.8 No implications directly arising from this report.

### **Summary of Consultation and Outcome**

4.9 Consultation on the audit coverage for 2023/24 will include Corporate Management Team, as set out in the body of this report.

## **5. Alternative Options Considered**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6. Background papers**

6.1 None.

