

Harborough District Council

Report to Audit & Standards Committee Meeting of 24th April 2024



Title:	Internal Audit Charter and Strategy
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	N/A
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Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Mark Graves
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Charter and Strategy

Executive Summary

The report provides the Committee with the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy and seeks the Committee's approval, in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Recommendations

That the Audit and Standards Committee:

- 1.1 Approve the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy.

Reasons for Recommendations

To comply with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the terms of reference of the Audit & Standards Committee.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy for the Committee's review and approval, in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

2. Background

2.1 The role of Internal Audit is to provide the Audit and Standards Committee, and management, with independent assurance on the effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control environment.

2.2 The purpose of this Internal Audit Charter is to define Internal Audit's purpose, authority and responsibility. It establishes the position of Internal Audit's activity within the Council and reporting lines; authorises access to records, personnel and physical property relevant to the performance of audit work; and defines the scope of Internal Audit activities.

2.3 As the Audit and Standards Committee is approving the Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25 at the April 2024 meeting, it was considered appropriate to also review the Charter which defines how those assignments will be delivered.

3. Details

3.1 The Internal Audit Charter and Strategy is subject to annual approval by the Audit and Standards Committee. Since the Committee last approved a Charter in March 2023, the content and format has been reviewed and the content remains consistently aligned with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). No amendments have been proposed for 2024/25.

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1 Corporate Priorities

The Internal Audit Plan will be linked to the Council's Corporate Priorities and these will inform the planning process.

4.2 Financial

Not applicable.

4.3 Legal

No legal issues directly arising from this report.

4.4 Policy

No policy issues directly arising from this report.

4.5 Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

No implications directly arising from this report.

4.6 Risk Management

The work of internal audit is informed by the Council's risk management framework and will seek to provide assurance over management of key risks.

4.7 Equalities Impact

No implications directly arising from this report.

4.8 Data Protection

No implications directly arising from this report.

5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome

No applicable.

6. Alternative Options Considered

Not applicable.

7. Background papers

See Appendix 1.

