



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	22 OCTOBER 2020
REPORT OF THE:	SECTION 151 OFFICER (ANTON HODGE)
TITLE OF REPORT:	INTERNAL AUDIT, COUNTER FRAUD AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE PLANS 2020/21
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The work of internal audit is governed by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). In accordance with those standards internal audit is required to prepare an indicative risk-based audit plan following consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and senior management. The purpose of this report is to present to members the internal audit plan for 2020/21. The proposed plans of work for counter fraud and information governance are also provided, for information.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the internal audit plan for 2020/21 be approved and the counter fraud and information governance plans be noted.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To enable the committee to fulfil its responsibility to approve the internal audit plan as part of its responsibility for overseeing the work of internal audit (as stated within paragraph 7.6 of the Council's Audit Charter).
- 3.2 To ensure that the committee understands the scope and extent of counter fraud and information governance work to be undertaken.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The Council will fail to comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) if the internal audit plan is not approved by the committee, and it may be subject to increased scrutiny and challenge.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The work of internal audit, counter fraud and information governance supports the Council's overall aims and priorities by promoting probity, integrity and honest and by helping support the council to become a more effective organisation.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 Once a year the ongoing audit planning process is formalised with the production of the Annual Internal Audit plan. Annex A to this report sets out the proposed plan of internal audit work for 2020/21.
- 6.2 The planned work is based on an initial assessment of risk undertaken by Veritau, alongside discussions with this committee and senior officers. This helps to ensure limited audit resources are prioritised towards those areas which are considered to be the most appropriate and/or which contribute the most to the achievement of the Council's priorities and objectives.
- 6.3 In recognition of the significant change the Council is currently undergoing and the challenges it is facing, the plan has been designed as a high-level document with an allocation of days for key areas. The detailed audits to be included within these areas will be agreed with the responsible officers in the coming months. The plan is also flexible so will be updated if the Council's priorities or risks change during the year. This is particularly expected to be the case during 2020/21 as the Council continues its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 6.4 Total planned days for internal audit in 2020/21 are 225. This includes an allocation of days for key systems and service areas within the Council and also includes an allowance for work already undertaken in 2020/21 in response to Covid-19 issues.
- 6.5 In addition to internal audit, Veritau provides the Council with specialist counter fraud and information governance services. For transparency and information purposes we have included the counter fraud (Annex B) and information governance (Annex C) plans for 2020/21 alongside the audit plan within this report. Total planned counter fraud days for 2020/21 are 105 and total information governance days are 25. These plans do not require approval but are presented for the committee's information.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
None
 - b) Legal
None
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
None

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Background Papers:

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, CIPFA Local Government Application Note (for the United Kingdom Public Sector Internal Audit Standards)
RDC Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy Action Plan (July 2019)