

1 Definition and Purpose of Internal Audit

- 1.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government (2003) defined Internal Audit

Internal Audit is an assurance function that provides an independent and objective opinion to the organisation on the control environment, by evaluating its effectiveness in achieving the organisation's objectives. It objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of the control environment as a contribution to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources.

- 1.2 Internal Audit is a statutory service in the context of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, which state in respect of Internal Audit:
- 1.3 'A relevant body shall maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices.'
- 1.4 The existence of an Internal Audit function does in no way diminish the responsibility of management to establish systems of internal control to ensure that activities are conducted in an efficient, secure and well ordered manner within the Authority.

2 Responsibility & Objectives

- 2.1 As an independent appraisal function within the Authority, the objectives of Internal Audit are:
- To review, appraise and report on the adequacy of internal controls as a contribution to the economic, efficient and effective use of resources.
 - Ascertain the extent of compliance with procedures, policies, regulations and legislation.
 - Provide reassurance to management that their agreed policies are being carried out effectively
 - Facilitate good practice in managing risks
 - Recommend improvements in control, performance and productivity in achieving corporate objectives.
 - Review the value for money processes, best value arrangements, systems and units within the Authority.
 - Work in partnership with External Audit
 - Identify fraud as a consequence of its reviews and deter crime.
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3 Scope and Accountability

- 3.1 Internal Audit as a function will remain independent of the Authority's operational activities, and its auditors will undertake no operational duties. This will allow auditors to perform duties in a manner which facilitates impartial and effective professional judgements and recommendations.
- 3.2 The scope of Internal Audit allows for unrestricted coverage of the Authority's activities and access to all staff, records and assets deemed necessary in the course of the audit.
- 3.3 Accountability for the response to advice and recommendations made by Internal Audit lies with the management of the Authority. Management can accept and implement advice and recommendations provided or formally reject it. Internal Audit is not responsible for the implementation of recommendations or advice provided.
- 3.4 Internal Audit sits within the Finance Service and supports the statutory functions of the Head of Finance. However, Internal Audit is also accountable to the Governance and Audit Committee for the delivery of assurance in relation to the Council's system of internal control

4 Reporting

- 4.1 All audit assignments will be the subject of a formal report written by the appropriate auditor. The report will include an 'opinion' on the adequacy of controls in the area that has been audited.
- 4.2 Every Internal Audit report issued, with the exception of schools, is subject to a follow up in order to ascertain whether actions stated by management in response to the audit report have been implemented. Internal Audit will determine if progress made in response to recommendations stated in the issued audit report is satisfactory, or if a further follow up is required.
- 4.3 Internal Audit will prepare an interim and annual report for the Governance and Audit Committee and give an opinion on the Council's internal control framework.
- 4.4 Internal Audit will bring to the attention of the Governance and Audit Committee any serious matters of concern that may arise in the course of audit work

5 Resources

- 5.1 Internal Audit will prepare an Audit Strategy each year that sets out the aims and objectives of the service.
- 5.2 A detailed risk based plan of work will be prepared for approval by the Governance and Audit Committee, including the resources required to carry out the work. This will set out the key areas / risks that are to be subject to audit. It will also identify any gap between the assessment of need for audit work and the resources available to carry that work out.