

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection**

Report to:	<b>Audit Committee</b>
Date:	<b>21 March 2016</b>
Subject:	<b>Draft Internal Audit Plan 2016/17</b>

**Summary:**

This report presents to the Committee the draft internal audit plan for 2016/17.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Committee agrees the audit plan for 2016/17.

**Background**

1. The Internal Audit Section works to an annual plan of work which is agreed by the Audit Committee and Senior Management.
2. The plan has been developed using the Council's Combined Assurance Model which is a record of all assurances against our critical activities and key risks.
3. Using the Combined Assurance Model helps streamline and avoid duplication of effort where assurances can be drawn from other sources eg management – corporate functions - third parties. It provides coverage of all assurance – not just those from Internal Audit and will enable the Head of Audit to produce the annual internal audit opinion for 2016.
4. Internal Audit continues to have the right to conduct its own assurance activity freely and independently in order to meet its role and remit – even if there appears to be a good level management or alternative assurance in place. However, the Map has enabled the reasons why we have included areas in our plan to be clearly understood by Management.
5. Our work tends to focus on where current assurances have been critically assessed as having a low or medium level of confidence on service delivery arrangements – management of risks – effective control environment or where more independent assurance is required - based on significance and risk of the activity. It also takes into account the relative risks of the activity which may result in some low risk areas not being audited.

6. Attached is the draft internal audit plan for 2016/17 – **Appendix A**.
7. We have conducted meetings in February and March 2016 with each Executive Director to consult and agree the areas included in the plan.
8. CIPFA's Audit Committees practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police - 2013 Edition includes the following core functions around Internal Audit relevant to the plan:
  - That the Internal Audit Plan focuses on the key risks facing the Council and is adequate to support the Head of Audit opinion.
  - Confirm that the plan achieves a balance between setting out the planned work for the year and retaining flexibility to changing risks and priorities during the year.
  - Ensure that the Internal Audit Resource has sufficient capacity and capability to deliver the plan.
  - Seek an understanding of what assurances Internal Audit will be providing the Committee to help it discharge its terms of reference.
  - Assess how the Committee may seek and obtain assurance from other sources during the year – e.g. management and corporate functions / third parties.

## **Conclusion**

9. The Committee is asked to agree the draft plan, identifying any amendment that is considers appropriate.

## **Consultation**

### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

N/A

## **Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Internal Audit Plan 2016/17
Appendix B	Internal Audit Charter

## **Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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