

Internal Audit - Draft Internal Audit Plan 2014/15

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Council's draft Internal Audit (IA) Plan details the planned IA activity which seeks to:

- Provide all IA key stakeholders with independent assurance that the risks within the Council's fundamental systems and processes are being effectively managed;
- Allow the Council to demonstrate it is complying with the relevant legislation and applicable professional standards;
- Demonstrate the Council's commitment to good governance and compliance with the UK Public Sector IA Standards (PSIAS); and
- Set out that IA resources are being properly utilised.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is asked to consider the draft IA Plan for 2014/15 and subject to any further minor amendments approve the IA Plan.

INFORMATION

The outcomes from the work proposed in the IA Plan underpin the Head of IA's Annual Opinion Statement. This opinion concludes on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control, risk management and corporate governance arrangements. It also supports the Council's Annual Governance Statement which forms part of the statutory financial statements.

The draft 2014/15 IA Plan sets out the high-level areas where we expect to utilise our resources. This year in preparation of the IA Plan, IA has adopted a greater risk based approach following a risk assessment exercise which has taken place throughout the year. This has involved consideration of risk registers, reviewing committee and HIP reports as well as reports from external inspectorates (e.g. Ofsted), as well as liaison with External Audit. We have also consulted with all senior managers and considered legislative updates as well as exercising our own professional judgement.

One of the key features of the draft IA Plan for 2014/15 is it includes a 400 days (25% of IA available resource) contingency. This allows for greater flexibility in IA coverage of new and emerging risks, which supports the continuously changing risk profile of the Council. It is also in response to the historical pattern of actual delivery of previous IA plans at Hillingdon.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.