

Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21

Committee name	Audit Committee
Officer reporting	Sarah Hydrie, Head of Internal Audit & Risk Assurance
Papers with report	Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The attached report presents the Audit Committee with the planned Internal Audit (IA) approach and activity type for the 2020/21 financial year and seeks to:

- Provide all Business Assurance 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 Business Assurance IA resources are being properly utilised.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee notes the Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 and, subject to any further minor amendments, approves it.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The outcomes from the work proposed in the 2020/21 IA Plan will underpin the Head of Internal Audit & Risk Assurance statutory annual IA 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.

In 2020/21, the Business Assurance service at Hillingdon will continue to apply a fully risk-based approach to its IA coverage. This means that Business Assurance gives greater assurance to the Council because its IA coverage is closer aligned to the key risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives. As a result, Business Assurance will not just be commenting on whether the controls operate, but whether they are the right controls to achieve the overall aims of the service.

In order to deliver this assurance it is vital for the organisation to have a comprehensive IA Plan which gives sufficient risk-based coverage and support to management. To help meet this

need, the risk-based IA Plan for 2020/21 has been linked to the organisational objectives and strategic priorities, whilst also taking account of the Council's wider assurance framework.

This year's IA Annual Plan has been developed following the major negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, IA has had to revisit its 'Audit Needs Analysis' to help formulate its IA plan for 2020/21. The updated Audit Needs Analysis has been used to inform the quarterly IA planning process for the remainder of the audit year (Quarters 3 and 4).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Business Assurance service holds various background research papers in relation to the Annual IA Plan 2020/21.