

## AUDIT COMMITTEE - Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22

<b>Committee name</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Sarah Hydrie, Head of Internal Audit & Risk Assurance
<b>Papers with report</b>	Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

The attached report presents the Audit Committee with the planned Internal Audit (IA) approach and activity type for the forthcoming 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 Audit Committee:**

- 1. Notes the Draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22 and, subject to any further minor amendments, approve it.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The IA Plan is a crucial component of the annual assurance opinion statement provided by the Council's Head of Internal Audit & Risk Assurance, to those charged with governance. 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. Hillingdon, in common with all other councils, faces a number of challenges including post Covid-19 recovery work and an increased demand for services in a number of key areas. The test for Hillingdon Council is therefore to continue to try to balance the needs of our most vulnerable communities with the continually decreasing financial resources.

To help meet this need, the risk-based IA Plan for 2021/22 has been linked to the organisational objectives and strategic priorities, whilst also taking account of the Council's wider assurance framework. In addition, the IA Plan for 2021/22 has been developed in accordance with the IA Charter, the IA Strategy and also gives consideration to the Counter Fraud Strategic Plan

2021/22.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Business Assurance service holds various background research papers in relation to the Annual IA Plan 2021/22.