

REVISED INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020-21 (INCLUDING COVID ASSURANCE WORK)

Report of the Corporate Director, Corporate and Support Services

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance to prepare an annual risk-based internal audit plan which takes into account the requirement to produce an annual internal audit opinion.

2. AUDIT PLANNING METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The internal audit plan (Appendix 1) was originally prepared in March 2020 through the development of an Audit Coverage Model that highlighted those areas of the Council considered highest risk. Consideration was also been given to the Council's risk management arrangements and consultation with senior management across the Council.
- 2.2 Shortly after the development of the plan the country was placed into lockdown due to the covid-19 pandemic. Accordingly the plan was adjusted and an ongoing Covid Assurance Plan produced to direct internal audit resources in the short term. The revised plan now includes elements of the original plan in March 2020, requested for new planned work, covid-19 assurance work and deferred work. All the above have been risk assessed.
- 2.3 The revised plan includes an assessment of the resources required to deliver an annual internal audit opinion and details the work that will be undertaken to inform the annual opinion. This has been matched against current dedicated internal audit resource. A flexible resource will be required to deliver this year's plan which may be subject to change again as the year progresses and the risk environment changes.
- 2.4 The key themes from the revised plan are that it must be flexible in aligning audit resources to those areas that require the greater level of assurance and as such the plan will be subject to regular review. Any changes will be approved by Corporate Leadership Team and the Audit Committee.
- 2.5 Furthermore, the Audit Charter 2020/21 is attached as an appendix to the audit plan (Appendix 2). The Audit Committee has approved the Audit Charter alongside the internal audit plan in previous years. The charter has now been updated for the year ahead and to ensure continued compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, of which the Internal Audit service is now fully compliant with.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Audit Committee is asked to approve the revised annual internal audit plan and audit charter for 2020/21.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards – CIPFA/IIA.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact John Pearsall on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4033 or alternatively email john.pearsall@stockport.gov.uk