

**PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (EXTERNAL REVIEW & REPORT)**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (and Section 151 Officer)**1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 All principal local authorities and other relevant bodies subject to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (amended), the Accounts and Audit (Wales) regulations 2005, section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Amendment to the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 must make provision for internal audit in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) as well as the (CIPFA) Local Government Application Note.
- 1.2 A professional, independent, and objective internal audit service is one of the key elements of good governance in local government.
- 1.3 The PSIAS require that an external assessment of an organisation's internal audit function be conducted once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside of the organisation. External assessments can be in the form of a full external assessment, or a self-assessment with independent external validation.
- 1.4 The North-West Chief Audit Executives' Group (NWCAE) has established a 'peer-review' process that is managed and operated by the constituent authorities. This process addresses the requirement of external assessment by 'self-assessment with independent external validation' and this report presents the summary findings of the review conducted on behalf of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 1.5 The attached report (appendix 2) outlines the findings of the recent external assessment. The report concludes that the Internal Audit Service has passed and therefore fully complies with the requirements of the national standards.

**2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Audit Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Documents used in the development of the assurance report include:

- CIPFA Guide to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (2013 and 2017).
- <https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/standards/public-sector-internal-audit-standards>

Anyone requiring further information should contact John Pearsall on telephone number 0161 474 4033 or alternatively email [john.pearsall@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:john.pearsall@stockport.gov.uk)