

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Revised 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan

27 August 2020

Report of the Internal Audit and Assurance Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider and approve the revised 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the revised Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 be considered and approved.**
- 2. The Audit Committee note that Lancashire County Council will no longer be providing assistance to complete the revised audit plan.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The risk based internal audit plan for 2020/21 was first approved by the Audit Committee at their meeting on the 19 February 2020.
- 1.2 In April 2020, both the Internal Audit and Assurance Manager (IAAM) and the Principal Auditor were redeployed to assist the Council and support the community during the Covid-19 outbreak. The Principal Auditor worked full time in assisting with the application and processing of business grants, whilst the IAAM remained at Wyre Council to assist with the Community Hubs.
- 1.3 No internal audit work was carried out during the period 1 April to 31 July 2020.
- 1.4 Lancashire County Council can no longer assist with the delivery of the audit plan in 2020/21 (50 days) owing to Covid-19 and limited resources.
- 1.5 A risk assessment has been completed and the original audit plan has been revised to take into consideration the limited time and resources left during 2020/21.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The revised Internal Audit Annual Plan for 202/21 (attached at Appendix A) seeks to demonstrate that the necessary arrangements are in place to maintain a sound system of internal control.

3.0 Details of consultation

- 3.1 A consultation with the Section 151 Officer has been undertaken in compiling this report and the revised audit plan.

4.0 Options and options analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 Members are invited to comment on and then approve the revised internal audit plan for 2020/21.
- 4.2 Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, and other Local Authorities being in a similar position to Lancaster City Council, there are no available resources to replace Lancashire County Council and assist with the delivery of the revised audit plan.
- 4.3 There are no alternative options identified.
- 5.0 Conclusion**
- 5.1 The attached revised risk-based plan takes into consideration the limited resources and time available for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 5.2 The revised plan seeks to ensure the IAAM can continue to deliver an effective internal audit service and also ensure the delivery of an annual internal audit opinion which will be used as a key source of evidence in the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

This report has no direct impact on these areas.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The original 50 audit days that were to be sourced from Lancashire County Council at a cost of £325 p/day (total £16,250 plus VAT) which were being met from vacancy savings are no longer required.

There are no further financial implications arising from the report at this point.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments .

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Internal Audit Plan 2020/21

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Audit Plan - 2020 / 21 (Amended Post Covid) September – March 2021

CATEGORY OF WORK
<i>General / Meetings / Non-Chargeable</i>
Internal Audit management / audit committee work
Advice and assistance
Qualification training / professional development
<i>2019/20 Audit Plan work</i> (work rolled forward / work in progress)
Property Investment Strategy (PIS) (light touch audit)
Legal Fees and Charges and Debt Recovery
Financial planning and MTFs
Fixed asset register
Council housing assets
<i>Project assurance work</i>
Purchase to pay
Payroll e-budgeting
Job evaluation
<i>Audit contingencies</i>
Contingencies for investigations/whistleblowing
<i>Follow-up work</i>
Procurement and contract management
Fixed asset register (depending on assurance rating)
Insurance
Payroll
Dog Warden
Asbestos
Legal fees and charges and debt recovery
<i>Corporate priorities / ambitions</i>
Psychological safety / staff wellbeing
<i>Revenue shared service financial systems</i>
Housing Benefits - Lancaster
Housing Benefits e-form - Lancaster
Housing Benefits - Lancaster
<i>Other areas of work</i>
Preparation of the Annual Governance Statement
Risk Management
Validation of assurance mapping work