

## Draft Internal Audit Plan 2024/5

To: Audit & Accounts Committee

Meeting Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

From: Head of Internal Audit & Risk Management

Electoral division(s): All

Executive Summary: In line with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), the Head of Internal Audit develops and maintains a risk-based Audit Plan demonstrating how the work of the Internal Audit team will provide the Audit Committee and management with independent assurance on the effectiveness of the controls in place to ensure that the Council's objectives are achieved. This report presents the proposed Internal Audit plan for 2024/5.

Recommendation: Audit & Accounts Committee is requested to review and comment on the proposed draft Internal Audit Plan 2024/5.

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# 1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 The role of Internal Audit is to provide the Audit Committee and management with independent assurance on the effectiveness of the controls in place to ensure that the Council's objectives are achieved. Internal Audit coverage is planned so that the focus is upon those areas and risks which will most impact upon the Council's ability to achieve these objectives. As such, the maintenance of an effective system of internal audit contributes to the achievement of all seven of the Council's ambitions.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require that the Council "must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes; taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance."
- 2.2 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require that the Chief Audit Executive (at Cambridgeshire County Council, this is the Head of Internal Audit & Risk Management) "must establish risk-based plans to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the organisation's goals". The standards refer to the need for this risk-based plan to consider the organisation's risk management framework, and to take into account the requirement to produce an annual internal audit opinion.
- 2.3 The risk-based Audit Plan therefore needs to include an appropriate and comprehensive range of work which is sufficiently robust to confirm that all assurances provided as part of the system of internal audit can be relied upon by the Audit & Accounts Committee.

## 3. Draft Internal Audit Plan 2024/25

- 3.1 The approach taken to risk-based audit planning at Cambridgeshire, and the proposed programme of work for the Internal Audit team in 2024/5, is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Finance Implications

N/A

### 4.2 Legal Implications

Effective Internal Audit planning supports the Council's compliance with its obligations under the Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

### 4.3 Risk Implications

Effective Internal Audit planning is risk-based, and should provide the Audit & Accounts Committee and management with an assurance over the effectiveness of risk management at the Council.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

## 5. Source Documents

### 5.1 Draft Internal Audit Plan 2024/5 – Appendix 1.