

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

Title:

INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

The report provides an update to the Committee on the updated Internal Audit Charter that has been developed in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards. The standards apply to all internal audit service providers, whether in-house, shared services or outsourced. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) (Attribute Standard 1000) requires organisations to have an Internal Audit Charter that formally defines the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit activity, consistent with the Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Standards.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The work of Internal Audit service has an impact upon all the Council's priorities as its work involves exposure to all service areas to provide assurance on the control environment of the council. Internal Audit work contributes to the safeguarding of assets against loss and waste and identifying other value for money issues.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

There are no Value for Money implications.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications.

Introduction

1. All internal audit services across the public sector are governed by the PSIAS.
2. CIPFA has also produced an Application Note as the sector-specific requirements for local government organisations. The PSIAS and the Local Government Application Note together supersede the 2006 CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the UK.
3. The objectives of PSIAS are to:
 - Define the nature of internal auditing within the UK Public Sector
 - Set basic principles for carrying out internal audit in the UK public sector

- Establish a framework for providing internal audit services, which add value to the organisation, leading to improved organisational processes and operations;
 - Establish the basis for the evaluation of internal audit performance and to drive improvement planning.
4. The foundations of PSIAS are not fundamentally different to those adhered to under the CIPFA Code of practice and require an internal audit charter that defines the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit activity, with clear definitions of those fulfilling responsibilities of the 'board' (The Audit Committee) and 'senior management' (Management Board). The proposed Internal Audit Charter, which meets the requirements set out in PSIAS, is attached at Annexe 1 for consideration.
 5. The Internal Audit Charter must be reviewed periodically (as a minimum annually) by the 'Chief Audit Executive' (Internal Audit Manager) and presented to the Audit Committee.
 6. In line with the Standards, external assessment will also be conducted at least once every five years by an external, qualified, independent assessor or assessment team.

Conclusion

1. This report provides the Audit Committee with an overview of the Internal Audit Charter in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Audit Committee approves the Internal Audit Charter.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER: Gail Beaton

Telephone: 01483 523260

E-mail: gail.beaton@waverley.gov.uk