

8. THREE YEAR INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

REPORT OF: Audit Manager
Contact Officer: Gillian Edwards
Email: gillian.edwards@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477241
Wards Affected: All MSDC Wards
Key Decision: No
Report to: Audit Committee
15th March 2017

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee of the detailed work proposed for 2017/18 and the overall Internal Audit Plan, for the three years 2017/18 2018/19, and 2019/20.

Summary

2. The three year internal audit plan has been compiled to respond to the changes within the organisation, its structure and how its services are delivered, whilst also ensuring that key controls are effective.
3. The plan allows for examination of the main financial areas from a systems and ICT perspective, which is key to ensuring the Council's finances remain properly controlled, whilst also undertaking strategic and service based work each with a varying risk to the organisation.
4. The plan also includes some specific reviews from previous audit work, designed to ensure that agreed actions have been satisfactorily implemented and that the Council is being consistent in its approach year on year.
5. The plan continues to include coverage of specific key controls agreed with the External Auditor to support their year-end work as required.
6. It should be noted that the coverage in year 3 may be subject to amendment, based upon changing situations, risks identified, and priorities.

Recommendation

7. **The Committee is asked to comment on the detailed Internal Audit Plan for 2017/18 (Appendix A) and the 3 Year Internal Audit Plan (Appendix B).**

Introduction and Background

8. The work of Internal Audit is managed through a risk-based planning process which this year comprises detailed one year and three year plans.
9. The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider the proposed Internal Audit Plans.

INTERNAL AUDIT PLANS:

Preparation

10. The preparation process for the detailed one year and three year plans included engagement with management, consideration of findings of previous audit work and the inclusion of fundamental systems, including the major financial systems.
11. The detailed plan for 2017/18 is shown in Appendix A, with the three year plan in Appendix B.

Fundamental Systems

12. These are the main financial systems and as such, adequate control is key to the proper operation of the Council's financial affairs. The External Auditor also relies upon the work of Internal Audit partially in formulating their audit opinion. These systems are examined annually and a total of 88 days is allocated for this work in 2017/18, which represents 40% of the total available audit days. This time also includes liaison with the External Auditor, Ernst & Young.

Computer Audit

13. This category deals with examining the control of the Council's main computer systems and infrastructure. An ICT risk assessment is undertaken at the beginning of each financial year, to determine how the resources allocated to this area can be best utilised.

Risk Based and Corporate Audits

14. This area relates to work requested and/or having been identified by Internal or External audit as a key risk to the Council.

Follow Ups

15. It is important for the effectiveness of Internal Audit that there should be a process of following up previously agreed actions to ensure they are implemented satisfactorily and in a timely manner. A total of 10 days have been allocated for this work each year.

Management and Planning

16. In addition to undertaking the audits referred to above, Internal Audit also carry out a number of support and planning activities. These include liaison with the External Auditor to ensure the two functions complement each other and avoid duplication. In addition, I liaise with management to agree the audit programmes and scope, allocate appropriately skilled resources, provide guidance to management on internal issues and present to the Audit Committee.

Resources

17. The Internal Audit Service for the following three years has a total of 220 days allocated per annum. This work will be managed by Gillian Edwards, Audit and Risk Manager at Crawley Borough Council, as part of the shared service arrangement. Specialists, including computer auditors, will be brought in as required.

Risk Assessment

18. This plan has been produced after engaging with stakeholders, consideration of the findings of Internal and External Audit and review of relevant documentation. There is scope for additional resources to be allocated to the plan, to cover unexpected eventualities and unforeseen risks, by agreement with the Head of Corporate Resources and the Audit Manager.
19. The three year plan is intended to focus on the strategic direction of the Council. Management Team are committed to Heads of Service taking responsibility for ensuring that controls are maintained within their areas of responsibility. If there are concerns over any issues, these can be discussed with Internal Audit for advice and there is sufficient flexibility in the plan to allow for this. Additionally, Heads of Service can ask Internal Audit to undertake examinations on a one off basis, subject to agreement by the Head of Corporate Resources.

Policy Context

20. This report explains how the Internal Audit function will contribute to the work of the Council Internal Audit is a statutory function required under section 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

Financial Implications

21. The detailed 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan has been compiled to ensure it remains within the budget for the three years.

Background Papers

Internal Audit reports relating to 2016/17
Working papers relating to 2016/17

Appendix A

Mid Sussex District Council Internal Audit Plan 2017/18

	Systems	IT	Total	Comments
<i>Fundamentals</i>				
Housing Benefits	14		14	This work will ensure compliance
Council Tax	12		12	
NNDR	12		12	with Ernst & Young's requirements
Payroll	8		8	It will also include reviews to confirm
Income Collection (Cashiers)	10		10	
Treasury Management	5		5	that key controls are present in the
Payments (Creditors)	8		8	fundamental financial systems and
Sundry Debtors	8		8	
Capital Accounting & Asset Management	7		7	and assess whether they are
Budgetary Control	4		4	operating in a satisfactory manner.
FMS	5		5	
Ernst & Young – top up testing	10		10	
<i>Risk Based and Corporate</i>				
Procurement	10		10	
Anti-Fraud Work including NFI	25		25	
<i>ICT Audits</i>				
To be allocated		20	20	
Sub Total	138	20	158	
Follow Ups	10		10	
Contingency				
Sub Total	148	20	168	

	Systems	IT	Total	Comments
<i>Management and Planning</i>				
Committees	12		12	
Operational Management	24		24	
Head of Audit Time	16		16	To include preparation of Head of Audit Annual Report
<i>Total Days</i>	200	20	220	

Mid Sussex District Council – 3 Year Internal Audit Plan

	2017/2018 Year 1	2018/2019 Year 2	2019/2020 Year 3
<i>Fundamentals</i>			
Housing Benefits	14	14	14
Council Tax	12	12	12
NNDR	12	12	12
Payroll	8	8	8
Income Collection (Cashiers)	10	10	10
Treasury Management	5	5	5
Payments (Creditors)	8	8	8
Sundry Debtors	8	8	8
Capital Accounting & Asset Management	7	7	7
Budgetary Control	4	4	4
FMS	5	5	5
Ernst & Young – top up testing	10	10	10
<i>Risk Based and Corporate</i>	103	103	103
	10	10	10
Anti-Fraud Work including NFI	25	25	25
<i>ICT Audits</i>			
To be allocated	20	20	20
Follow Ups	10	10	10
Contingency		0	0
<i>Management and Planning</i>			
Committees	12	12	12
Operational Management	24	24	24
Head of Audit Time	16	16	16
<i>Total Days</i>	220	220	220