

Audit Committee Meeting		Agenda Item:
Meeting Date	9 March 2016	
Report Title	Internal Audit Plan 2016/17	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Cabinet Member for Finance	
SMT Lead	Mark Radford – Director of Corporate Services	
Head of Service	Rich Clarke – Head of Audit Partnership	
Lead Officer	Rich Clarke – Head of Audit Partnership	
Key Decision	No	
Classification	Open	
Forward Plan	Reference number: N/A	
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee approves the internal audit plan for 2016/17. 2. The Committee notes the longer term plan to 2018/19. 3. The Committee notes the Head of Audit Partnership's view that the service is sufficiently resourced to deliver a Head of Audit Opinion for 2016/17. 	

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1,.1 The report is provided in order to allow the Committee to consider and approve the Internal Audit Operational Plan 2016/17. It sets out the proposed audit work, comprising both assurance rated projects and other work, that the Audit Partnership intends to undertake to support work assessing the Council's internal control, risk management and corporate governance.

2 Background

- 2,1 The Audit Committee must obtain assurance on the control environment of the organisation. Consequently, the Committee needs to have an awareness of the work conducted by Internal Audit, in order to adequately fulfil its duties.
- 2.2 The internal control environment comprises the whole network of systems and controls established to manage the Council, to ensure that its objectives are met. It includes financial and other controls, and arrangements for ensuring the Council is achieving value for money from its activities

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The report sets out the one-year operational plan for 2016/17 together with an update to the longer-term plan up to 2018/19 originally presented to this Committee in March 2015. We ask the Committee to review and approve the

2016/17 operational plan in note the longer-term plan. We also ask Members to note the Head of Audit Partnership's view that the Partnership has sufficient resources to deliver the plan. This final request arises from developments to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards during 2015/16 that require the Head of Audit to explicitly draw attention of Members to his assessment of the resources as his disposal.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Audit Committee as part of its terms of reference must maintain oversight of the internal audit function and its activities. The plan proposed aims to complete internal audit's responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.

5 Consultation Undertaken

- 5.1 All findings and recommendations identified within reviews are consulted on with the appropriate Head of Service and action plans are agreed with management to implement recommendations. This plan was developed in consultation with Heads of Service and other Managers across the last several months and in response to discussions over the course of the year. The plan was also shared in full with officers at the Audit Partnership's Shared Service Board meeting.

6 Implications

- 6.1 This report is provided for information rather than decision and consequently raises no new issues and implications.

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The role of Internal Audit is to help the Council accomplish its objectives. All audit work considers the adequacy of controls and risks associated with the delivery of the Council's strategic and operational objectives.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage.
Legal and Statutory	Internal Audit is a required function in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and	The audit plan is produced as a result of risk assessment examining where audit activity is best focussed. The risk of not approving the plan is that the Council will be at

Safety	greater risk of incurring or failing to detect fraud, error or service failure or weakness. There are no Health and Safety implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Swale Borough Council Internal Audit Plan 2016/17.

8 Background Papers

None