

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7

6 OCTOBER 2020

Report Title	INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020/21 (Revision)
Purpose of Report	To provide the Committee with a summary of the proposed revision to the Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 (due to the COVID 19 pandemic).
Decision(s)	<p>The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to:</p> <p>(1) Consider the proposed changes to the Internal Audit Plan 2020/21; and</p> <p>(2) Approve the revision (subject to any further change requested by Members) as detailed in Appendix 1.</p>
Consultation and Feedback	<p>Officers (Strategic Leadership Team, Heads of Service and Service Managers); Members (via the Audit and Standards Committee Risk Based Audit Planning workshop on 2nd December 2019); and External Audit were consulted on the original Annual Risk Based Internal Plan 2020/21, alongside internal audit's own assessment of risk.</p> <p>The 2020/21 plan revision exercise has involved further consultation with Officers (Strategic Leadership Team, Heads of Service and Service Managers) with the goal to ensure that the updated Plan continues to focus on the Council's priorities and meet the Council's assurance requirements.</p> <p>The timing of audit work will be planned in conjunction with the appropriate managers to minimise service disruption, abortive work and time.</p>
Report Author	<p>Theresa Mortimer, Head of Audit Risk Assurance Tel: 01453 754111 Email: theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	No other options have been considered as a risk based internal audit plan is required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The purpose of this report is to ensure that the Stroud District Council Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 remains flexible and dynamic, to ensure that the assurance needs of the Council are met.
Background Papers	CIPFA Local Government Application Note for the UK PSIAS.

	Web links to published background papers are within the covering report.			
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Plan 2020/2021 (Revised due to COVID 19).			
Implications (details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members approved the [Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2020/21](#) at 26th May 2020 Audit and Standards Committee meeting as required by the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) and the [Public Sector Internal Audit Standards \(PSIAS\) 2017](#).
- 1.2 COVID 19 has placed significant pressures on Council services and has impacted (and continues to impact) the Council's priorities, objectives and risk environment.
- 1.3 Due to the changing position and to ensure that the Risk Based Internal Audit Plan meets the assurance needs of the Council, the Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 has been reviewed and refreshed in consultation with the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) including input from the Council's wider management team. This exercise included consideration of newly identified activities, current activities that should be prioritised within 2020/21 and activity deferrals (due to risk position). The outcome is the draft revised Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 (Revised due to COVID 19) at Appendix 1.

2.0 MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 (Revised due to COVID 19) at Appendix 1:
- Summarises the current position or the proposed way forward for each activity under the original Stroud District Council Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2020/21. This being either:
 - Completed;
 - In Progress;
 - Planned to be completed 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2021; and
 - Defer for consideration in 2021/22.
 - Records any new activity as discussed and agreed with SLT due to COVID 19 emerging / new risk.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 A requirement of the PSIAS is for the Chief Internal Auditor to produce an Annual Risk Based Internal Audit Plan and for this Plan to be approved by the appropriate body. In the case of Stroud District Council, this is the Audit and Standards Committee who are also required to approve any significant change to the agreed activity.
- 3.2 Following approval of the revised Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2020/21, regular reports on progress against the revised Plan and any significant control issues identified will be presented to the Audit and Standards Committee.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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4.2 Risk Assessment:

Failure to deliver an effective Internal Audit Service will prevent an independent, objective assurance opinion from being provided to those charged with governance that the key risks associated with the achievement of the Council's objectives are being adequately controlled.

4.3 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

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4.4 Equality Implications

The Internal Audit Service is delivered by Audit Risk Assurance which is an internal audit and risk management shared service between Stroud District Council, Gloucester City Council, and Gloucestershire County Council. Equality in service delivery is demonstrated by the team being subject to, and complying with, the Council's equality policies.

4.5 Environmental Implications

There are no Environmental implications as a result of the recommendations made within this report.