

Audit and Standards Committee

4th June 2015

Assurance Strategy 2015/16

Recommendation

That the Committee approves the proposed assurance strategy and Audit Charter.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The overall objective of internal audit is to provide an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's control systems. To do this, audit work during the year needs to be planned to cover the significant risks facing the Council. Professional standards require this strategy/plan to be considered by the Audit & Standards Committee. Following extensive discussions with senior officers, a new one year plan has been prepared and is attached (**Appendix A**) for endorsement by the Committee.
- 1.2 As explained at previous meetings an Audit Charter is a requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and sets out the purpose, authority and responsibility of internal audit. It has to be formally agreed and approved by the organisation and periodically reviewed. The Charter establishes the internal audit activity's position within the organisation, including the nature of the service's functional reporting relationship; authorises access to records, personnel and physical properties relevant to the performance of engagements and defines the scope of internal audit activities. In accordance with best practice the Audit Charter has been reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate and an updated version is attached (**Appendix B**); the main change being to reflect changes in regulatory requirements.

2.0 Background Papers

- 2.1 None

Appendices:

Appendix A: Assurance Strategy 2015/2016

Appendix B: Audit Charter

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Garry Rollason	01926 412680
Head of Service	Sarah Duxbury	01926 412090
Strategic Director	David Carter	01926 412564
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur	01926 632679