Middlesbrough Council

Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan 2020/21

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1   Introduction

1.1   This plan sets out the proposed 2020/21 programme of work for the internal audit and counter fraud service provided by Veritau for Middlesbrough Council.

1.2   In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), internal audit is required to produce an indicative annual audit plan. The plan is a working document, and changes are made throughout the year to reflect changes in risk and any issues that may arise.

1.3   The content of the plan has been subject to consultation with senior officers and needs to be formally approved by the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee. Future changes to the plan will be agreed through the Council's client management arrangements and be notified to the Committee. The proposed audit work has also been discussed with the Council's external auditors, to ensure that there is no duplication of effort. Further details about the approach to audit planning can be found in the Audit Charter.

2   2020/21 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud plan

2.1   The Council continues to face significant budgetary pressures, increasing demand for services and a number of other challenges. To reflect this, the approach adopted is to focus on higher risk systems / areas including those:

- where the volume and value of transactions processed are significant, or the impact if risks materialise is very high, making the continued operation of regular controls essential;

- areas of known concern, where a review of risks and controls will add value to operations;

- areas of significant change which may include providing direct support / challenge to projects, reviewing project management arrangements, or consideration of the impact of those changes on the control environment for example where the reduction in resources may result in fewer controls.

2.2   Internal audit resources are limited and the plan is intended to ensure the available resources are prioritised towards those systems which are considered to be the most risky and / or which contribute the most to the achievement of the Council's priorities and objectives.

2.3   The plan includes an allocation of days for key service areas within the Council. The individual audits to be included within these areas will be agreed with officers during the year.

2.4   Details of the 2020/21 plan are set out below:

Area	Days	Potential audits / activity
Corporate & cross cutting	110	Financial planning and resilience Budgeting and savings plans Corporate governance Strategic planning Risk management and emergency planning Performance management and data quality Partnerships Procurement and contract management Ethics, culture, workforce planning Information governance Environment and waste Health and safety Project governance and management
Financial / corporate systems	70	Payroll / personnel Main accounting / general ledger Debtors and creditors Capital accounting and assets Council Tax/NNDR and benefits Treasury Management
ICT	50	Strategy and governance ICT risk management ICT information security Cyber security
Adult Social Care & Health	80	Budget management Social care referrals and assessments Liberty Protection Safeguards Public health Environmental health Licensing
Children's Services	80	Support for the Council's improvement plan following the Ofsted inspection Budget management Social care referrals and assessment Special Educational Needs and Disability EHC plans Maintained schools
Growth and Place	50	Planning Estates Town Hall strategic management Commercial property acquisition

Teesside Pension Fund	20	Pension fund governance
Counter Fraud	150	Investigations NFI
Contingency	15	New or emerging risks
Follow-ups	35	Follow-up of previous actions
Liaison and reporting	45	Liaison with officers Committee reporting Audit planning and resourcing External audit liaison Support and advice
TOTAL	**705**	