

Report to: Audit & Governance Committee Meeting 6 April 2023

Director or Business Manager Lead: Nick Wilson – Business Manager – Financial Services

Report Summary	
Report Title	Annual Internal Audit Plan
Purpose of Report	To present the proposed Internal Audit Plan to the Committee for approval, in order for the Council to gain the relevant assurances throughout the 2023/24 financial year.
Recommendations	That the Committee approve the Internal Audit Plan.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure Committee members are aware of the Internal Audit Plan for the 2023/24 financial year.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Internal Audit plan has been developed to demonstrate how assurance can be given on:

- Financial Governance
- Governance and Risk
- Critical Activities
- Project Assurance
- ICT
- Key Controls
- Combined Assurance
- Consultancy Assurance

2.0 Internal Audit Plan

2.1 Assurance Lincolnshire have developed a combined assurance model for the Council which is a record of assurances against critical activities and risks. It provides an overview of assurance provided across the whole Council – not just those from

Internal Audit – making it possible to identify where assurances are present, their source, and where there are potential assurance ‘gaps’.

- 2.2 The internal audit plan, which is appended at appendix A, has been developed with reference to the combined assurance model as well as previous audit work, audit risk assessment, discussions with senior management, strategic and emerging risks.
- 2.4 The Plan sets out in detail Assurance Lincolnshire’s approach and what is intended to be reviewed in 2023/24. The plan that is set out is a 'flexible plan' which is subject to change as the year progresses to reflect the current risk environment. Any changes to the plan during the year will be agreed with the Business Manager Financial Services and subsequently notified to the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 2.4 This plan has been reviewed by the Council’s SLT and reflects where Management seek further assurance.

Internal Audit

- 2.5 The contract the Council has had with Assurance Lincolnshire ended on the 31st March 2023. There are still small pieces of work for Assurance Lincolnshire to undertake surrounding the Mansfield Crematorium audit and the Head of Internal Audits Annual report, which will be presented to this Committee at its next meeting.
- 2.6 During January 2023 a tender process was undertaken in order to procure a new audit firm to undertake the role of Internal Audit for the Council. TIAA Ltd were successful through that process and will be the Council’s Internal Auditors for the next 5 years.

3.0 Implications

Financial Implications (FIN23-24/972)

- 3.1 The budget as approved at Council on 9th March 2023 included £0.105m in relation to the cost of Internal Audit. This budget will be adequate for the proposed plan as presented in appendix A. There may be a slight overspend during 2023/24 in relation to the final works from Assurance Lincolnshire for finalising the Head of Internal Audits opinion for the year 2022/23. The total value will depend on the actual number of days completed for this activity. Any overspend will be contained within existing budgets for 2023/24.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None for this report