



Oldham
Council

Report to Audit Committee

Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan 2019/20

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

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Reason for Decision

To advise and consult with Members on the proposed Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan for the financial year 2019/20 and give Members of this Committee the opportunity to highlight any potential risks they feel would benefit from an Internal Audit and Counter Fraud review.

Executive Summary

The Annual Audit and Counter Fraud Plan is prepared on an annual basis and ultimately agreed with the Director of Finance as the Section 151 Officer to the Council. The Director of Finance needs to be assured the audit coverage is sufficient to discharge the S151 officer's statutory role. Consultation with the Audit Committee at this stage gives Members the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Annual Plan.

Recommendations

That Members of the Audit Committee comment upon and agree the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Planning process and the Audit and Counter Fraud Plan for 2019/20.

Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan 2019/20

1 Background

1.1 This is the report by the Head of Corporate Governance to this Committee to advise Members of the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud planning process for the financial year 2019/20. It also gives Members of this Committee the opportunity to highlight any potential areas of work they feel would be appropriate for future Internal Audit and Counter Fraud coverage.

2 Planning Process

2.1 The first stage of the Annual Internal and Counter Fraud Plan is derived from the strategic three year audit plan prepared via the use of the Council's agreed Audit Needs Assessment. This is then utilised to produce the initial draft of the Annual Plan.

2.2 The next stage of developing the plan involves consultation with and review of the following:

- Director of Finance and Senior Finance Staff.
- Key Directorate Staff and Management Team, including key staff from "Oldham Cares" for integrated health.
- Partnership and project governance undertaken with key Members of this Committee.
- Key Staff from Council owned companies; MioCare Group CIC and the Unity Partnership Ltd.
- Issues reported in key documents, including:
 - Corporate Risk Register; and
 - Annual Governance Statement.
- Council's Fraud and Loss Risk Assessment.
- External Audit and other Internal Audit providers; e.g. Salford Council IT Audit and Mersey Internal Audit Agency for integrated health audits.
- Council's Audit Committee.
- Head of Audit for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

2.3 **Appendix 1** attached to this report sets out the key areas of coverage it is proposed to review including developments on key projects and devolution. The Head of Corporate Governance will expand upon key issues at the meeting.

3 Conclusions

3.1 It is felt to be appropriate at this stage in the planning cycle to consult the Council's Audit Committee, in their governance role, to gain their views on the proposed areas for coverage.

4 Options/Alternatives

4.1 N/A

5 Preferred Option

5.1 The preferred option is that the Audit Committee notes the proposed areas for review and provides feedback on any areas they view as a priority for review.

- 6 **Consultation**
 - 6.1 This report is consulting on the views of the Audit Committee in relation to the 2019/20 Audit Coverage.
 - 7 **Financial Implications**
 - 7.1 N/A
 - 8 **Legal Services Comments**
 - 8.1 N/A.
 - 9 **Cooperative Agenda**
 - 9.1 N/A
 - 10 **Human Resources Comments**
 - 10.1 N/A
 - 11 **Risk Assessments**
 - 11.1 N/A
 - 12 **IT Implications**
 - 12.1 N/A
 - 13 **Property Implications**
 - 13.1 N/A
 - 14 **Procurement Implications**
 - 14.1 N/A
 - 15 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
 - 15.1 N/A
 - 16 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
 - 16.1 N/A
 - 17 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
 - 17.1 N/A
 - 18 **Key Decision**
 - 18.1 N/A
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19 **Forward Plan Reference**

19.1 N/A

20 **Background Papers**

20.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

File Ref: Background papers are included as Appendices
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21 **Appendices**

21.1 **Appendix 1:** 2019/20 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan
