

**INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE
INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2007- 08
(Report by the Audit & Risk Manager)**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the internal audit plan for 2007/08, attached at Annex A

2. STRATEGIC AND ANNUAL PLANNING

- 2.1 The Audit and Risk Manager is required to provide an opinion on the whole of the Council's internal control environment each year. This opinion also assists the Chief Executive and this Panel when they are preparing the Council's annual assurance statement. The work that is undertaken to allow this opinion to be formed is governed in the main by the annual audit plan.
- 2.2 The Internal Audit Service maintains a four year strategic audit plan, listing all the risk and system areas that are considered likely to affect the Council's internal control environment. The strategic plan shows the relative importance of each risk and system area and the frequency with which it should be audited.
- 2.3 To prepare the annual audit plan, the strategic plan is reviewed and audits placed in priority order. The highest priority schemes which can be delivered within the resources available are then included. Audit days are assigned to each area in the plan and then compared to the available resources available. The total days required to complete the four year strategic plan exceed current audit resources.

3. RESOURCING THE AUDIT PLAN

- 3.1 The 4 year strategic plan shows a shortfall of resources of 125 days, or 31 days a year. This is not considered sufficient enough to justify a request for additional resources nor have an effect on internal audit coverage across the whole of the Council's control environment.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Panel approve the annual audit and assurance plan.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Strategic Audit Plan
The Council's Risk Register

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