

REVISED 2020/21 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents the revised 2020/21 Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To agree and approve the revised Internal Audit Annual Plan 2020/21 (Appendix 1)

3. DETAILS

3.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) stipulate that the Council's Internal Audit plan must be risk based and focused on governance, risk and controls to allow the Chief Internal Auditor (CIA) to provide an annual opinion on the Council's internal control framework, based on the work undertake during the year. This annual opinion informs the Annual Governance Statement.

3.2 The 2020/21 Internal Audit annual plan was presented to, and approved by, the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 17 March 2020. However the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in all audit and scrutiny activity being halted from the end of March 2020 until the end of July 2020 as audit resource was redeployed to critical COVID response activity. This meant that a number of ongoing reviews from the 2019/20 Internal Audit Plan were not completed and there was a delayed start to the 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan.

3.3 In early July 2020 the CIA reviewed the outstanding work from the 2019/20 internal audit plan and the proposed 2020/21 work to reprioritise the reviews in light of the reduced resource available to deliver the plans. Proposed work with lower risk profiles were either pushed back to 2021/22 or removed entirely at the current time to be reconsidered as possible future reviews when we consider the 2021/22 plan. Reviews removed from the outstanding 2019/20 work and the 2020/21 plan are summarised in appendix 1.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The annual audit plan is risk based and is informed by the Council's long term outcomes, corporate objectives and strategic risk register. The plan incorporates continuous monitoring and verification activity sections.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy: None

5.2	Financial:	None
5.3	Legal:	None
5.4	HR:	None
5.5	Fairer Scotland Duty:	None
5.5.1	Equalities:	None
5.5.2	Socio-Economic Duty:	None
5.5.3	Islands Duty:	None
5.6	Risk:	None
5.7	Customer Service:	None

For further information please contact Internal Audit (01436 657694)

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Chief Internal Auditor
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Appendices:

- 1. Audits Removed from 2020/21 Audit Plan**
- 2. Revised 2020/21 Internal Audit Annual Plan**

Appendix 1 - Audits Removed from 2020/21 Audit Plan

Audit Title	Reason Removed
School Security	The audit was added as a result of a reasonably high profile incident of which there has been no recurrence. While this remains an issue where reoccurrence could have significant implications for the council the probability is low. The need for such an audit will be reconsidered for future audit plans.
Trading Standards	Trading Standards was subject to review in 2018. The audit opinion at that time was reasonable and all but one recommendation to update procedures has been fully implemented. This will be reconsidered for inclusion in the 2021/22 audit plan.
Contract Mgt/ Monitoring	Different strands of procurement and contract management have been audited via school procurement and Health and Social Care Partnership contract management in the 2019/20 audit plan. Inclusion of this in the 2021/22 audit plan will be subject to consideration.
CHORD	This was a consultancy review with Internal Audit contributing resource to a review being led by the Head of Service. Due to impact of COVID it is unlikely this review will go ahead in 2020/21. Discussed with Head of Service and agreed that audit input can be provided in 2021/22 if required.
Street Cleaning	Low risk area which was included in 2019/20 plan as an area that has not been subject to audit for considerable time. This will be reconsidered for the 2021/22 audit plan.
Events Management (Live Argyll)	This will be carried forward in to the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan. As a result of COVID there will be limited events in 2020/21 to inform an audit. We have an SLA to provide appropriate levels of Internal Audit coverage to Live Argyll so will address this by carrying out an additional review in 2021/22 (three instead of two).
Cyber security (part of 2019/20 plan)	The Council received recognition as a leader of good Cyber Security practice in the Scottish public sector after successfully completing the Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation for the third year in succession. This external assessment provides an excellent source of assurance resulting in a decreased risk profile.