

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 21 May 2014

**Lead Member / Officer: Barbara Smith – Lead Member for Modernising & Performance
Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit**

Report Author: Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit

Title: Internal Audit Annual Assurance Plan 2014-15

1. What is the report about?

This report provides the Committee with the Internal Audit Annual Assurance Plan for 2014-15. The Plan provides details of the proposed Internal Audit projects for the year that will allow the Head of Internal Audit to provide an 'opinion' on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk and control during the year.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the 'chief audit executive' to develop a risk-based internal audit plan that takes into account the requirement to deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report that the organisation can use to inform its governance statement. This Committee's terms of reference require it to consider internal audit's planning strategy.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee considers and comments on the Internal Audit Assurance Plan 2014-15.

4. Report details

Corporate Governance Committee considered and commented on the Internal Audit Strategy 2014-15 at its meeting on 15 April 2014. The Strategy provided an overview of where Internal Audit was likely to spend its time during 2014-15 following its recent move to the Business Improvement & Modernisation service. At that stage, the Head of Internal Audit was still consulting senior management on a more detailed operational plan.

The proposed plan of work is included as Appendix 1, which will allow the Head of Internal Audit to provide an overall 'opinion' in his annual report for 2014-15. This Committee will receive regular updates on progress with delivery of the Plan.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

There is no direct contribution to the Corporate Priorities, but some projects in the Plan will review Corporate Priority areas and will potentially help with their delivery.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no costs attached to this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

This report does not require a decision or proposal for change, so there is no impact on people who share protected characteristics.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The Head of Internal Audit has met with all members of the Corporate Executive Team and Senior Leadership Team to discuss proposed Internal Audit work.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications attached to this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Failure to deliver an adequate level of internal audit may mean that the Head of Internal Audit cannot provide an annual 'opinion' on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk and control during the year. This would potentially lead to a significant governance issue being raised in the Council's 'annual governance statement' at the end of the financial year.

11. Power to make the Decision

There is no decision required for this report but there is a requirement under the local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 for the 'audit committee' to review and assess the Council's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and to oversee the Council's internal audit arrangements.