

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Audit and Standards Committee – 12 March 2018

Internal Audit – External Quality Assessment

Recommendation

1. To note the results of the external quality assessment review undertaken in January 2018 of Staffordshire County Council's Internal Audit function.

Report of the Director of Finance & Resources

2. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), effective from 1 April 2013, contain the requirement for an external assessment of the internal audit function once every five years. The County Council needs to ensure that the assessment is undertaken by 31 March 2018.
3. The PSIAS define the nature of internal auditing, set out the basic principles for carrying out internal audit in the public sector and provide a framework for the service. These add value to the County Council leading to improved organisational processes and operations. The PSIAS also establish a basis for the evaluation of internal audit performance to drive planning. Within Local Government further guidance as to how these standards are to be applied is provided within the Local Government Application Note (LGAN).
4. The report attached details the results of the independent assessment. Paragraph 4 of the report outlines the overall conclusion and opinion of the assessor. The key highlights are that 'the review established that there were no areas of non-compliance or partial compliance with the standards identified'. Based on the work undertaken the overall conclusion is – 'it is our opinion that Staffordshire County Council's Internal Audit Service Generally Conforms to the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and those of the Local Government Application Note.' This is the highest category level that can be awarded via the CIPFA assessment process. One recommendation was made, together with three suggestions for improvement. The details together with the agreed action to address the recommendations have been included within the action plan at section 7 of the report.

Equalities and Legal and Climate Change Implications

5. There are no specific Equalities, Legal or Climate Change Implications presented by this report.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

6. It is anticipated that the cost of the assessment will be approximately £6,900.

Risk Implications

7. There are no specific Risk Implications presented by this report.

Health Impact Assessment

8. There are no specific Health Impact Assessment implications presented by this report.

Report author

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List of Background Documents:

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards – April 2017

Local Government Application Note – CIPFA 2013