

Agenda Item No: 8

Internal Audit Plan 2023/24

To: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting Date: 24 March 2023

From: Jon Alsop, Head of Finance (S73)

Key decision: Not a key decision

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Recommendations: The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:

• Consider and approve the proposed Combined Authority's internal audit plan for 2023/24.

Voting arrangements: Note only item, no vote required.

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of the report is for the Audit and Governance Committee to:

Consider and approve the proposed 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1. According to its Terms of Reference, the Audit and Governance Committee shall:
 - (a) Provide assurances over the effectiveness of internal audit functions and assuring the internal control environments of key partners;

- (b) Review internal audit requirements undertaken by the Combined Authority;
- (c) Approve the internal audit plan;
- (d) Consider reports and assurances from the Chief Finance Officer in relation to:
 - Internal Audit performance;
 - Annual Assurance Opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control;
- Risk management and assurance mapping arrangement;
- Progress to implement recommendations including concerns or where managers have accepted risks that the Authority may find unacceptable.
- 2.2. The RSM approach to developing the internal audit plan is based on analysing the Combined Authority's corporate objectives, risk profile and assurance arrangements as well as other factors affecting the Combined Authority in the year ahead, including changes within the sector.
- 2.3. RSM presented a draft version of the internal audit plan to the CPCA Executive Team on 7th March. Feedback from that discussion has informed the long list of suggested audit focus for 2023/24.
- 2.4. Whilst it is considered appropriate to keep an element of flexibility in the plan, the Committee is asked to provide direction to officers and RSM on the initial draft.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. Internal audit fees are within those agreed as part of the internal audit service contract.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The Combined Authority is required by law to ensure that adequate and effective internal audit provision is made.

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1. No other significant implications have been identified.

6. Appendices

6.1. Appendix 1: Draft Internal Audit plan 2023/24

7. Background Papers

None