

Internal Audit Annual Plan 2017/18

oneSource Internal Audit is a statutory service in the context of The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which state: "A relevant authority must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance".

From April 2013, organisations in the UK public sector are required to adhere to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the Standards).

The Standards require that the Chief Audit Executive (Head of Assurance) "establish risk-based plans to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the organisation's goals". When completing these plans, the Head of Internal Audit should take account of the organisation's risk management framework. The plan should be adjusted and reviewed, as necessary, in response to changes in the organisation's business, risk, operations, programs, systems and controls. The plan must take account of the requirement to produce an internal opinion and assurance framework.

This audit plan has been drawn up, therefore, to enable an opinion to be provided at the end of the year in accordance with the above requirements.

The expectation of the public for services provided by the public sector has never been greater; yet the money that is available for these services will continue to be reduced. All public sector organisations are looking at how these services can be transformed; what worked in the last decade may not meet new challenges. The use of, and dependency on, IT for service delivery will only increase further; this brings rewards but also carries its own risk.

The Internal Audit function has a key role in helping management fully understand their risks and in designing effective and efficient controls that mitigate these risks to an acceptance level; a consistent application of a quality internal audit opinion assists the organisation to develop alternative and new delivery solutions that will deliver the service required.

The audit plan has been developed to enable us to respond to changes during the year. Whilst every effort will be made to deliver the plan, it must be recognised that we need to be flexible and prepared to revise audit activity – responding to changing circumstances or emerging risks. The plan is therefore a statement of intent – our liaison meetings with senior management will enable us to firm up audit activity during the year.

The oneSource Internal Audit plan coverage for **2017/18** includes 2,700 direct days in line with the pre restructure business case. It should be borne in mind that, in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the plan needs to be flexible to be able to reflect and respond to the changing risks and priorities of the Authorities and, to this end, it will be regularly reviewed, and updated as necessary, to ensure it remains valid and appropriate. As a minimum, the plan will be reviewed in six months to ensure it continues to reflect the key risks and priorities of the oneSource Councils given the significant changes across the public sector. In order to allow greater flexibility, the Internal Audit Plan includes a contingency to allow for unplanned work.



The Audit Plan for Newham includes 868 days for Newham, and 400 days for oneSource Services. There is also a provision of 75 days across the three councils for Internal Audit support of Proactive and Counter Fraud work.



The Audit Plan for Havering includes 700 days for Havering, and 400 days for oneSource Services. There is also a provision of 75 days across the three councils for Internal Audit support of Proactive and Counter Fraud work.



The Audit Plan for Bexley includes 657 days for Bexley, and 120 days for relevant oneSource Services which Bexley receives.

There is also a provision of 75 days accross the three councils for Internal Audit support of Proactive and Counter Fraud work.

