

**Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority  
Report to the Ethics, Transparency and Audit Panel (ETAP)**

**27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**AUDIT CHARTER 2019**

**Report of Internal Audit**

**Summary**

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the Local Government Application Note (LGAN) Standard 1000 require that the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit activity must be formally defined in an Audit Charter. The Internal Audit Charter is a formal document setting out:

- internal audit's position within the organisation;
- its reporting lines;
- access to personnel, information and records;
- the scope of internal audit activities; and
- what the term Board means (e.g. the Ethics, Transparency & Audit Panel)

The requirement for an Audit Charter was a new requirement of PSIAS when they came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. The Audit Charter was originally produced and approved in March 2015 and since this date, the Audit Charter has been reviewed annually and a small number of revisions have been made.

The updated document is attached to this report for consideration and has been revised to cover all the requirements of the latest PSIAS (last issued April 2017)/LGAN (2019 edition) and the CIPFA statement regarding the Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Local Government 2010. The key changes made in 2019 are highlighted within the attached document in yellow and relate to the following areas:

- a) Numerous changes to Board names to reflect the governance changes from the Fire Authority to the Staffordshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority;
- b) The use of data analytics to prevent and detect fraud;
- c) Use of and the processing of data;
- d) the Authority's Service Management Board performs the role of the 'senior management' for the purpose of the PSIAS; and
- e) Updated Financial Regulations (section D).

**Recommendation**

To approve the revisions to the Internal Audit Charter originally approved by the Authority's Audit Committee in March 2015.

**Financial Implications**

Sufficient resources are available to the Internal Audit Section to fulfil the above commitments.

## **Legal Implications**

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 specifically require that a relevant body must “undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes taking into account public sector internal audit standards or guidance”.

## **Equality and Diversity**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **Risk Implications**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **Protective Security Implications**

The Internal Audit Section (including its external providers) operate in accordance with the professional standards and practice statements included within the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the CIPFA Local Government Application Note.

## **Procurement and Social Value**

Whilst there are no direct procurement implications there are social value benefits within the county deriving from Internal Audit Services being provided by a partner local public sector organisation.

## **Consultation and Engagement Undertaken**

Not Applicable.

## **Other Implications**

None.

---

Report of:-	Deborah Harris – Interim Chief Internal Auditor Alexander Cannon – ICT Audit Manager
Telephone:	(01785) 276406/895334
Email:-	<a href="mailto:deborah.harris@staffordshire.gov.uk">deborah.harris@staffordshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:alex.cannon@staffordshire.gov.uk">alex.cannon@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>