

THE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Internal Audit Strategy 2019/20 - 2022/23 (including the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan)

Presented at the Ethics, Transparency & Audit Panel (ETAP) meeting of: 29 March 2022

This report is solely for the use of the persons to whom it is addressed. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party.

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 is presented for consideration by the ETAP.

As the developments around Covid-19 will continue to impact on all areas of the organisation's risk profile, we will work closely with management to deliver an internal audit programme which remains flexible and 'agile' to ensure it meets your needs in the current circumstances.

The key points to note from our plan are:



2022/23 Internal Audit priorities: Internal audit activity for 2022/23 is based on analysing your corporate objectives, risk profile and assurance framework as well as other factors affecting you in the year ahead, including changes within the sector. Our detailed plan for 2021/22 is included at Section 1.

Level of Resource: The level of resource required to deliver the plan is consistent with 2021/22, with the fee in line with the day rates quoted within our contract with you. We will continue using technology when undertaking operational audits in 2022/23. This will strengthen our sampling, increasing the level of assurance provided. Refer to Appendix A.

Core Assurance: The key priorities and changes within the organisations during the period have been reflected within the proposed audit coverage for 2022/23 and beyond. Some key areas for inclusion for 2022/23 include:

Data Migration: Given the planned changes to the IT system at the Force, later on in 2022/23, it is important that assurances are obtained around the migration of data from legacy systems, and associated system access rights and privileges, to ensure the system reflects the stipulations outlined in the Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation.



Asset Management – We will be undertaking an assurance review in 2022/23 at the request of the CFOs following the advisory review in this area in 2020/21 where 2 high, 11 medium and 7 low priority actions were agreed. This review will ensure that all of the medium and high priority actions have been addressed and that robust asset tracking arrangements have been put in place.

Other Coverage - We have also agreed joint coverage with the **Fire Plans on Fleet Management** and **Freedom of Information**. Furthermore, we have included coverage on **Custody Management**, **Health & Safety**, **Property Store** and **Training & Development** following our discussions with Officers and review of your risk registers. In addition, we have included a **Contingency** allocation for 2022/23 that can be used as required to address any changing priorities and risks.

CONTENTS

1.	YOUR INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23	.4
2.	INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23	.5
APPE	NDIX A: YOUR INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE	.8
APPE	NDIX B: INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2020 - 2024	.9
APPE	NDIX C: INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER	13
FOR F	FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT	18

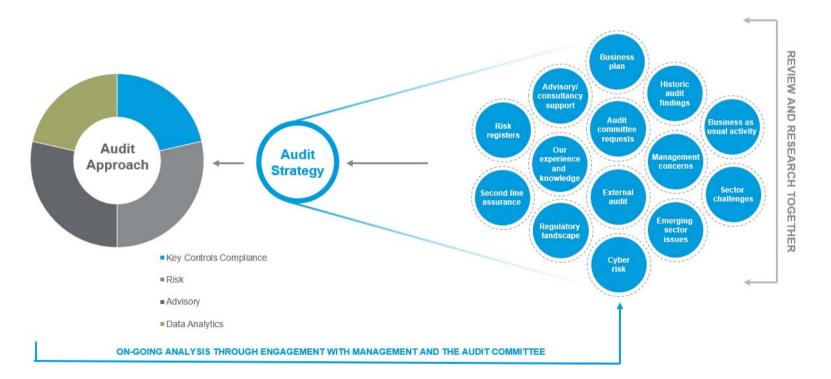
1. YOUR INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

Our approach to developing your internal audit plan is based on analysing your corporate objectives, risk profile and assurance framework as well as other, factors affecting The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner of Staffordshire and the Chief Constable of Staffordshire in the year ahead, including changes within the sector.

Risk management processes

We have evaluated your risk management processes and consider that we can place reliance on your risk registers / assurance framework to inform the internal audit strategy. We have used various sources of information (see Figure A below) and discussed priorities for internal audit coverage with senior management (and to be shared with the wider Executive Teams) and the ETAP.

Figure A: Audit considerations - sources considered when developing the Internal Audit Strategy.



Based on our understanding of the organisation, the information provided to us by stakeholders, and the regulatory requirements, we have developed an annual internal plan for the coming year and a high level strategic plan (see Section 2 and Appendix B for full details).

2. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

The table below shows each of the reviews that we propose to undertake as part of the internal audit plan for 2022/23. The table details the strategic objectives which may warrant internal audit coverage. This review of your risks allows us to ensure that the proposed plan will meet the organisation's assurance needs for the forthcoming and future years. As well as assignments designed to provide assurance or advisory input around specific risks, the strategy also includes time for tracking the implementation of actions and an audit management allocation.

Objective of the review	Audit approach	Fee	Proposed timing	Proposed ETAP Committee
Risk Based				
Asset Management (linked to OPCC Strategic Risk Objective: Capital Receipts to support spending plans and maximise savings in the estate and Force Risk: Capital Programme is insufficient to enable the investments required to meet business outcome)	OPFCC & Force – Assurance	£4,200	January 2023	May 2023
We will be undertaking an assurance review in 2022/23 at the request of the CFOs following the advisory review in this area in 2020/21 where 2 high, 11 medium and 7 low priority actions were agreed. This review will ensure that all of the medium and high priority actions have been addressed and that robust asset tracking arrangements have been put in place.				
Follow Up - Firearms storage and destruction	Force	£3,700	January	May 2023
A follow up of the audit completed during 2021/22 which considered the controls around the storage of firearms, tasers and ammunition, and destruction of firearms earmarked for disposal. The review will ensure that all of the medium and high priority actions have been addressed.	Follow Up		2023	
Property Store	Force	£4,600	November	February 2023
Given the move to Cannock, the audit will confirm consistency in the application of procedures to ensure property is recorded and held securely and consistently and access (both to building and systems) is appropriately monitored and restricted.	Assurance		2022	
ICT Audit – User Experience	Force – Assurance	£4,500	November	February 2023
The scope will be determined nearer the time but will focus on ensuring the Organisation has the right equipment, which is available at the right time and in the right place.			2022	
Linked to Force Risk - Failure of Legacy IT Systems				
Corporate Resourcing Unit	Force	£4,600	September	December 2022
The scope will be determined nearer the time to ensure it does not duplicate any internal works or other third party assurance. But it is likely to comprise of Resource Management, Paid Overtime and Cancellation of Rest Days.	Advisory		2022	

Objective of the review Au	dit approach	Fee	Proposed timing	Proposed ETAP Committee
Framework for Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements: Freedom of Informatio	n Assurance	£3,000	July 2022	October 2022
We will review elements of the arrangements in place for compliance with the the Freedom of Information Act 2000.	Joint with Fire			
HR – Training & Development	Force	£4,500	September	December
The audit will focus on how training and development opportunities are identified and delivered, including mandatory training obligations. Assurance that there is a clear alignment between the training need and the objectives of the individual and the Force.	Assurance		2022	2022
Pay Progression Standard	Assurance	£3,600	July 2022	October 2022
An assurance audit to determine that there is a robust process in place for consistent application ar approval for pay progression awards.	nd OPFCC & Force	20,000		
Health & Safety – Employer Responsibilities (including remote working)	Assurance	£4,200	September	December
To understand how employer responsibilities around health and safety, including incidents and	OPFCC and	, , , ,	2022	2022
accidents, risk assessments, approval for home working take place and reporting are completed consistently across the business.	Force			
Fleet Management – Joint Fire and Police review	Assurance	£4,700	July/August	December
The specific scope of the audit will be determined with the senior team nearer the time (although we will ensure that duplication with previous scopes is minimised). However, given the expenditure across the organisations allocated to fleet it is an area of focus to ensure value for money is achieved. We will also consider arrangements in place to monitor usage and to ensure that value is being achieved from the Fleet and the audit will link in with the revised operating model.			2022	2022
Custody Management	OPFCC	£3,600	July 2022	October 2022
The scope of the audit will be determined nearer the time but it is likely to consider the arrangement in place for custody visitors.	^{ts} Assurance	20,000		
Core Assurance				
Risk Management	Assurance	£3,500	December	February 2023
Following the changes made to the Risk Management Framework within the Force, it makes sense to provide assurance over the processes in place in relation to the use of risk registers, risk scoring escalation, risk reporting, use of controls and assurances.			2022	

Finance System –		Assurance	£4,500	January 2023	May 2023	
access and segrega required), access a	ce system move to Integra, the review will focus on the data migration, sys ation of duties to ensure data has been moved accurately and completely nd duties within the system correlate to the stipulations and requirements ns and Scheme of Delegation <u>.</u>	(where Force				
Other Internal Au	dit Activity					
Follow up	To meet internal auditing standards, and to provide assurance on	OPFCC & Force -	£4,000	February	May 2023	
	action taken to address management actions previously agreed.	Follow Up		2023		
Contingency	An allocation to be used as required during the year. Coverage will be agreed and reported to ETAP.	OPCC & Force – As required	£4,400	As required	As required	
Management	This will include:	Ongoing	£17,150	Ongoing	Ongoing	
	Annual planning and drafting and revision to annual plan					
	Preparation for, and attendance at, ETAP					
	Regular liaison and progress updates					
	Liaison with external audit and other assurance providers					
	Preparation of the annual opinions					

A detailed planning process will be completed for each review, and the final scope will be documented in an Assignment Planning Sheet. This will be issued to the key stakeholders for each review.

2.1 Working with other assurance providers

The ETAP is reminded that internal audit is only one source of assurance and through the delivery of our plan we will not, and do not, seek to cover all risks and processes within the organisation. We will however continue to work closely with other assurance providers, such as external audit to ensure that duplication is minimised, and a suitable breadth of assurance obtained.

APPENDIX A: YOUR INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE

Your internal audit service is provided by RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP. The team will be led by Dan Harris as your Head of Internal Audit, supported by Angela Ward as your senior manager.

Core team

The delivery of the 2022/23 audit plan will be based around a core team with a number of additional specialist skills and team members added for certain audits where required. All fees are in line with our tender submission.

Conformance with internal auditing standards

RSM affirms that our internal audit services are designed to conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

Under PSIAS, internal audit services are required to have an external quality assessment every five years. Our risk assurance service line commissioned an external independent review of our internal audit services in 2016 to provide assurance whether our approach meets the requirements of the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) published by the Global Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) on which PSIAS is based.

The external review concluded that "there is a robust approach to the annual and assignment planning processes and the documentation reviewed was thorough in both terms of reports provided to audit committee and the supporting working papers." RSM was found to have an excellent level of conformance with the IIA's professional standards.

The risk assurance service line has in place a quality assurance and improvement programme to ensure continuous improvement of our internal audit services. Resulting from the programme, there are no areas which we believe warrant flagging to your attention as impacting on the quality of the service we provide to you.

Conflicts of interest

We are not aware of any relationships that may affect the independence and objectivity of the team, and which are required to be disclosed under internal auditing standards.

RSM has recently submitted a proposal to potentially provide advisory services to support the Force IT team with the ongoing implementation of the IT Strategy. In addition, during 2021 RSM provided advisory services in relation to the Corporate Social Responsibility Fund and performed a data analytical exercise on the third party spend in order to assist the Force in providing and submitting the relevant source data for the required Home Office return.

All of the above have (or will in the case of the IT Advisory support) been undertaken through a separate letter of engagement, reporting lines and separate engagement partners, with the Head of Internal Audit and IA team having no involvement or oversight in these engagements. Therefore, we do not consider any of these engagements to constitute a conflict of interest and we have actively managed any potential self-review threat ahead of accepting any of these engagements.

APPENDIX B: INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2020 - 2024

The table below shows an overview of the audit coverage to be provided through RSM's delivery of the internal audit strategy. This has been derived from the process outlined in Section 1 above, as well as our own view of the risks facing the sector as a whole.

		1st Line Assurance: Management control and reporting2nd Line Assurance: Punctional oversight/governance3rd Line of Assurance : Independe nt review / Assurance						3rd Line of Assurance - Internal Audit								
Assurance Provided		ల			•						Firm					
Red - Minimal Assurance / Poor Progress		ews			loup	-	ard			it	су F					
Amber/red - Partial Assurance / Little Progress	Risk	Reviews val	G	OPCC	Chief Officers Group	Project board	Directorate board	ETAP	HMICFRS	External audit	External Consultancy	2019/20	21	22	23	24
Amber/green - Reasonable Assurance / Reasonable Progress	register ref	ment Rev Approval	KPIs		ffice	ject							2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Green - Substantial Assurance / Good Progress		Management Appro			ief O	Pro) irect		н	Exte	nal C					
Advisory / AUP		Man			Сһ						kter					
IDEA											ш					
Governance					-											
Force Management Statements		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark							✓
Governance & Risk Management		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark								
HMICFRS inspections		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark							
Performance management		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓			\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark		
Pension scheme	P&RP ENS	✓														
Ethics/Integrity		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark							\checkmark
Strategic planning		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark				\checkmark			

Collaboration				-										
Other police forces	CEX 01	\checkmark		✓	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark				\checkmark			
Police/fire collaboration – Governance and Savings	CEX 01	\checkmark		\checkmark			\checkmark							
п				•		-		••••		-				
Mobile solutions	ITFAIL	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark			\checkmark		
Niche	DCCNI CHEPI	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			✓					
Airwave/Emergency Services Network	DCCES N	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	✓								
Cyber security	ITFAIL	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark			\checkmark		
GDPR/Data protection/information management		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					<			
Business continuity and disaster recovery	ITFAIL & OPJAF AR	✓		~	✓							~		
Operational										-				
Demand management (incl Fleet)		\checkmark		✓	\checkmark		\checkmark							
Firearms licensing		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark							\checkmark		\checkmark
Cybercrime		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark						\checkmark			
Crime data integrity	DCCD Q	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark		 ✓ 					✓		
Firearms and tasers storage and disposal		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark								\checkmark	
Bail management		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark									\checkmark
POCA/drugs/cash/property storage and disposal		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark						\checkmark			
Custody management		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark								\checkmark	
Terrorism/civil unrest		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark								

Finance															
Medium term financial planning	P&RMC B	\checkmark		✓	\checkmark			\checkmark					\checkmark		
Efficiencies/savings programmes	FIN 02	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓						~	
Value for money		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			✓	\checkmark						
Procurement/contract management		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark								\checkmark
Income generation and key finance controls		\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	✓										\checkmark
Finance Systems	FIN 02	\checkmark												~	
Payroll		\checkmark													
Estates	I		-	Į		1	<u> </u>			·	•		-		
Estates	P&RHAN LEY	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
Health and safety		\checkmark	\checkmark		~		\checkmark							~	
Asset Management		\checkmark												\checkmark	
Fleet Utilisation		\checkmark												\checkmark	
Property Store		\checkmark												\checkmark	
People				•											
Recruitment and retention	CEX 05	\checkmark	✓		\checkmark		\checkmark	 ✓ 							\checkmark
Culture		\checkmark			~	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark							✓
EDI															\checkmark
Training		\checkmark	✓		\checkmark		\checkmark	✓						~	
Medical retirements		\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark								\checkmark
Workforce planning		\checkmark			✓		\checkmark	✓			\checkmark				\checkmark
Sickness absence		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	✓							\checkmark

OPCC														
Complaints		\checkmark		\checkmark										\checkmark
Victims' services		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark								\checkmark		
Restorative Justice		\checkmark		\checkmark										\checkmark
Specified information order		\checkmark		\checkmark										
Freedom of Information		\checkmark		\checkmark									\checkmark	
Partnerships	C&P 01	\checkmark		\checkmark							✓			
Grants		\checkmark		\checkmark							✓			
Communications/media		\checkmark		\checkmark										\checkmark
Commissioning	C&P 01	\checkmark		\checkmark							✓			
Environmental Plan														\checkmark
Police and Crime Plan priorities	CEX 01	\checkmark		\checkmark								✓		
Other support services			1	ŗ	1	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		 	Į		Ļ	
Vetting		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark							\checkmark
Security of premises		\checkmark			\checkmark									
Communications/media		\checkmark			\checkmark				✓					\checkmark
Fleet/transport		\checkmark			\checkmark		\checkmark				✓		\checkmark	

APPENDIX C: INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Need for the charter

This charter establishes the purpose, authority and responsibilities for the internal audit service for The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner of Staffordshire and the Chief Constable of Staffordshire. The establishment of a charter is a requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and approval of the charter is the responsibility of the audit committee.

The internal audit service is provided by RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP ("RSM").

We plan and perform our internal audit work with a view to reviewing and evaluating the risk management, control and governance arrangements that the organisation has in place, focusing in particular on how these arrangements help you to achieve its objectives. The PSIAS encompass the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) as follows:

- Core principles for the professional practice of internal auditing;
- Definition of internal auditing;
- Code of ethics; and
- The Standards.

Mission of internal audit

As set out in the PSIAS, the mission articulates what internal audit aspires to accomplish within an organisation. Its place in the IPPF is deliberate, demonstrating how practitioners should leverage the entire framework to facilitate their ability to achieve the mission.

"To enhance and protect organisational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice and insight".

Independence and ethics

To provide for the independence of internal audit, its personnel report directly to the Partner, Dan Harris (acting as your head of internal audit). The independence of RSM is assured by the internal audit service reporting to the chief executive, with further reporting lines to the Chief Finance Officer.

The head of internal audit has unrestricted access to the chair of audit committee to whom all significant concerns relating to the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management activities, internal control and governance are reported.

Conflicts of interest may arise where RSM provides services other than internal audit to The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner of Staffordshire and the Chief Constable of Staffordshire. Steps will be taken to avoid or manage transparently and openly such conflicts of interest so that there is no real or perceived threat or impairment to independence in providing the internal audit service. If a potential conflict arises through the provision of other services, disclosure will be reported to the audit committee. The nature of the disclosure will depend upon the potential impairment and it is important that our role does not appear to be compromised in reporting the matter to the audit committee. Equally we do not want the organisation to be deprived of wider RSM expertise and will therefore raise awareness without compromising our independence.

Responsibilities

In providing your outsourced internal audit service, RSM has a responsibility to:

- Develop a flexible and risk based internal audit strategy with more detailed annual audit plans. The plan will be submitted to the audit committee for review and approval each year before work commences on delivery of that plan.
- Implement the internal audit plan as approved, including any additional tasks requested by management and the audit committee.
- Ensure the internal audit team consists of professional audit staff with sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience.
- Establish a quality assurance and improvement program to ensure the quality and effective operation of internal audit activities.
- Perform advisory activities where appropriate, beyond internal audit's assurance services, to assist management in meeting its objectives.
- Bring a systematic disciplined approach to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of risk management, internal control and governance processes.
- Highlight control weaknesses and required associated improvements together with corrective action recommended to management based on an acceptable and practicable timeframe.
- Undertake follow up reviews to ensure management has implemented agreed internal control improvements within specified and agreed timeframes.
- Report regularly to the audit committee to demonstrate the performance of the internal audit service.

For clarity, we have included the definition of 'internal audit', 'senior management' and 'board'.

- Internal audit a department, division, team of consultant, or other practitioner (s) that provides independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. The internal audit activity helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes.
- Executive Management who are the team of individuals at the highest level of organisational management who have the day-to-day responsibilities for managing the organisation.

• The highest level governing body charged with the responsibility to direct and/or oversee the organisation's activities and hold organisational management accountable. Furthermore, "board" may refer to a committee or another body to which the governing body has delegated certain functions (eg an audit committee).

Client care standards

In delivering our services we require full cooperation from key stakeholders and relevant business areas to ensure a smooth delivery of the plan. We proposed the following KPIs for monitoring the delivery of the internal audit service:

- Discussions with senior staff at the client take place to confirm the scope four weeks before the agreed audit start date.
- Key information such as: the draft assignment planning sheet are issued by RSM to the key auditee four weeks before the agreed start date.
- The lead auditor to contact the client to confirm logistical arrangements at least 10 working days before the commencement of the audit fieldwork to confirm practical arrangements, appointments, debrief date etc.
- Fieldwork takes place on agreed dates with key issues flagged up immediately.
- A debrief meeting will be held with audit sponsor at the end of fieldwork or within a reasonable time frame.
- Draft reports will be issued within 10 working days of the debrief meeting and will be issued by RSM to the agreed distribution list / Sharefile.
- Management responses to the draft report should be submitted to RSM.
- Within three working days of receipt of client responses the final report will be issued by RSM to the assignment sponsor and any other agreed recipients of the report.

Authority

The internal audit team is authorised to:

- Have unrestricted access to all functions, records, property and personnel which it considers necessary to fulfil its function.
- Have full and free access to the audit committee.
- Allocate resources, set timeframes, define review areas, develop scopes of work and apply techniques to accomplish the overall internal audit objectives.
- Obtain the required assistance from personnel within the organisation where audits will be performed, including other specialised services from within or outside the organisation.

The head of internal audit and internal audit staff are not authorised to:

- Perform any operational duties associated with the organisation.
- Initiate or approve accounting transactions on behalf of the organisation.
- Direct the activities of any employee not employed by RSM unless specifically seconded to internal audit.

Reporting

An assignment report will be issued following each internal audit assignment. The report will be issued in draft for comment by management, and then issued as a final report to management, with the executive summary being provided to the audit committee. The final report will contain an action plan agreed with management to address any weaknesses identified by internal audit.

The internal audit service will issue progress reports to the ETAP and management summarising outcomes of audit activities, including follow up reviews.

As your internal audit provider, the assignment opinions that RSM provides the organisation during the year are part of the framework of assurances that assist the board in taking decisions and managing its risks.

As the provider of the internal audit service we are required to provide an annual opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's governance, risk management and control arrangements. In giving our opinion it should be noted that assurance can never be absolute. The most that the internal audit service can provide to the board is a reasonable assurance that there are no major weaknesses in risk management, governance and control processes. The annual opinion will be provided to the organisation by RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP at the financial year end. The results of internal audit reviews, and the annual opinion, should be used by management and the Board to inform the organisation's annual governance statement.

Data protection

Internal audit files need to include sufficient, reliable, relevant and useful evidence in order to support our findings and conclusions. Personal data is not shared with unauthorised persons unless there is a valid and lawful requirement to do so. We are authorised as providers of internal audit services to our clients (through the firm's terms of business and our engagement letter) to have access to all necessary documentation from our clients needed to carry out our duties.

Quality Assurance and Improvement

As your external service provider of internal audit services, we have the responsibility for maintaining an effective internal audit activity. Under the standards, internal audit services are required to have an external quality assessment every five years. In addition to this, we also have in place an internal quality assurance and improvement programme, led by a dedicated team who undertake these reviews. This ensures continuous improvement of our internal audit services.

Any areas which we believe warrant bringing to your attention, which may have the potential to have an impact on the quality of the service we provide to you, will be raised in our progress reports to the audit committee.

Fraud

The audit committee recognises that management is responsible for controls to reasonably prevent and detect fraud. Furthermore, the audit committee recognises that internal audit is not responsible for identifying fraud; however internal audit will be aware of the risk of fraud when planning and undertaking any assignments.

Approval of the internal audit charter

By approving this document, the internal audit strategy, the audit committee is also approving the internal audit charter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Daniel Harris, Head of Internal Audit

Email: <u>Daniel.Harris@rsmuk.com</u>

Telephone: 07792 948767

Angela Ward, Senior Manager

Email: Angela.Ward@rsmuk.com

Telephone: 07966 091471

rsmuk.com

The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during the course of our review and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all improvements that might be made. Actions for improvements should be assessed by you for their full impact. This report, or our work, should not be taken as a substitute for management's responsibilities for the application of sound commercial practices. We emphasise that the responsibility for a sound system of internal controls rests with management and our work should not be relied upon to identify all strengths and weaknesses that may exist. Neither should our work be relied upon to identify all circumstances of fraud and irregularity should there be any.

Our report is prepared solely for the confidential use of Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Staffordshire Police, and solely for the purposes set out herein. This report should not therefore be regarded as suitable to be used or relied on by any other party wishing to acquire any rights from RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP for any purpose or in any context. Any third party which obtains access to this report or a copy and chooses to rely on it (or any part of it) will do so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by any person's reliance on representations in this report.

This report is released to you on the basis that it shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole or in part (save as otherwise permitted by agreed written terms), without our prior written consent.

We have no responsibility to update this report for events and circumstances occurring after the date of this report.

RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales no. OC389499 at 6th floor, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4AB.