



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 09 April 2025	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Internal Audit Plan 2025/26 and Introduction Report**

Report Author(s): **Colleen Warren (Chief Finance Officer/S151 Officer)
Lucy Cater (Assistant Director, SWAP)**

Purpose of Report:	To introduce SWAP to the audit committee and outline the audit plan for 2025/26.
Report Summary:	To introduce the SWAP audit team and for them to outline the audit focus for 2025/26.
Recommendation(s):	That the content of the report and to agree the audit plan for 2025/26.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Colleen Warren (Chief Finance Officer/S151 Officer) (0116) 257 2759 colleen.warren@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Lucy Cater (Assistant Director SWAP) 01285 623340 / 07720 312470 lucy.cater@swapaudit.co.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Key Supplier / Partnership Failure (CR2) Reputation Damage (CR4) Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8) Increased Fraud (CR10) Cyber Threat / Security (CR11) Other corporate risk(s)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report.

Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Internal Audit Plan 2025/26

1. Information

- 1.1 Internal Audit provides an independent and objective opinion on the Council's control environment by evaluating its effectiveness. The Internal Audit service for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (provided by SWAP Internal Audit Services) works to professional standards and from 1st April 2025 will apply the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) and Topical Requirements subject to the Application Note for UK Public Sector Internal Audit
- 1.2 Primarily, the work of the service is based on the Internal Audit Annual Plan agreed by Senior Management and the Audit Committee, driven by the Council's Strategic Risks and which includes both assurance and advisory work across financial, operational, governance along with grant certification work and other reviews.
- 1.3 Due to the pace of change within local authorities, it is increasingly difficult to accurately predict longer-term key organisational risks. Our approach to internal audit planning recognises this through a strategic 12 month rolling plan, whereby we have prepared an agile, risk assessed work plan containing key areas of coverage. This approach will ensure we are auditing the right areas, with the correct scope, at the right time.
- 1.4 We will revisit and adjust our programme of work on at least a quarterly basis to ensure alignment with the changing profile of the organisation's operations, systems and controls and with regard to sector risks. The regular input of the Leadership team, Chief Finance Officer and review of the Authority's risk register will be considered in this process.
- 1.5 The Audit Plan contains an element of contingency in order that the plan can remain flexible and respond to new and emerging risks as and when they are identified and may include unannounced activity.