

REPORT TO THE Final Accounts and Audit Committee

Report No. 13

Date of Meeting	28/06/2007
Title of Report	Draft Internal Audit Strategy 2007/2008
Link to Corporate Priorities	No links to corporate priorities, however links to corporate aims: 2. To ensure high quality, cost effective services. 4. To safeguard and enhance the assets and resources of North Wiltshire and the wider community.
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To present to the Final Accounts and Audit Committee the draft Internal Audit Strategy for approval.

Officer Recommendations

That the draft strategy be approved.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2006 the Final Accounts and Audit Committee approved the 2006/2007 Internal Audit Strategy.
- 1.2 The Strategy has been reviewed and updated to take account of changes within the organisation as well as changes in Best Practice and legislation, and is presented again to be re-approved for 2007/2008.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Option 1: The Draft Internal Audit Strategy be approved.
- 2.2 Option 2: Amendments to the Strategy be made by the Committee.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice for Local Government Internal Audit, identified as Best Practice, sets out a number of Standards which Internal Audit sections should comply with. External Audit will assess Internal Audit sections against these standards when evaluating the effectiveness of the function.
- 3.2 Standard 7 requires Internal Audit to produce a Strategy, setting out how the Internal Audit service will be delivered and developed. It should state how the assurance for the statement on internal control will be demonstrated, how the section will contribute to the organisation's corporate governance arrangements, risk management processes and key internal control systems. It should also state how the resources and skills for the delivery of the audit plan will be sourced and retained. It should also set out the relative allocation of audit resources between assurance work and any fraud related or consultancy work.

4. Preparation of the Strategy

- 4.1 The North Wiltshire District Council Internal Audit Strategy has been drawn up with the above standard in mind. It addresses the key work to be undertaken by Internal Audit and the main outputs of the section's work. It also includes measures for measuring the performance of the section.
- 4.2 The Strategy sits alongside the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations which set out the rights and obligations of Audit to access records, information and individuals and also the roles and responsibilities of Officers in supporting the role of Audit.
- 4.3 It has been produced with reference to Strategies published by other authorities, and has been updated to ensure it reflects current legislation and Best Practice.

5. Implications

- 5.1 None.

Risk Analysis

- 6.1 Failure to adopt an up to date, effective strategy could lead to criticism by External Audit

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Draft Internal Audit Strategy 2007/2008
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Internal Audit Strategy 2006/2007	Final Accounts and Audit Committee 29/06/2006	FA11