

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUDIT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	26 JUNE 2025	REPORT NO:	DFP/07/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT, MIKE REA		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT, MIKE REA	REPORT AUTHOR:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT, MIKE REA
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	2025/26 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	2025/26 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN
	APPENDIX B:	INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Purpose of Report

1. To notify Members of the proposed Internal Audit plan for 2025/26 and to seek comments from Members on the plan.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members:
 - a) consider any comments or opinions they might have on the proposed audit plan, and
 - b) approve the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan

Introduction and Background

3. The purpose of Internal Audit is defined as follows:

“Internal auditing strengthens the organisation’s ability to create, protect, and sustain value by providing the board and management with independent, risk-based, and objective assurance, advice, insight, and foresight.” (Source: Global Internal Audit Standards).
4. The Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that it maintains an adequate and effective system of Internal Audit of its accounting records and control systems, (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015). In order to fulfil this statutory requirement, the Authority has entered into a contract with Liverpool City Council’s Internal Audit Service. The Authority has utilised Liverpool City Council’s Internal Audit Service (LCC IAS) since 1986. LCC IAS has established an Internal Audit Charter (IAC) and

Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme (QAIP) to ensure compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) and that LCC IAS delivers to the Authority an effective high-quality service.

5. Each year Internal Audit submit a work plan following consultation with the Strategic Leadership Team including the Director of Finance and Procurement, along with the Head of Finance and other key officers. This plan is set based upon an assessment of risks, previous findings and the relationship with External Audit work. The two main strategic areas of work are:
 - a. A review of fundamental financial systems and processes, and
 - b. Specific project reviews requested by the Service.
6. The proposed 2025/26 internal audit plan is attached as Appendix A to this report and Members are asked to consider the plan and provide any comments or opinions they might have on the proposed plan, and subject to any proposed amendments approve the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan.
7. Arrangements have been set in place for monitoring progress against the plan on an ongoing basis and for closely managing any ad hoc work requirements during the year.
8. Attached as Appendix B to this report, is the “Internal Audit Service Charter” that defines Internal Audit function’s mandate, independence, organisational position, reporting relationships, qualifications & experience, resourcing and quality of internal audit services. The Charter ensures that the Authority receives an internal audit function in accordance with the mandatory requirements of the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS).

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. There are no equality and diversity implications contained within this report.

Staff Implications

10. There are no staff implications contained within this report.

Legal Implications

11. The Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that it maintains an adequate and effective system of Internal Audit of its accounting records and control systems. (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015).

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. The annual cost of the audit is £45,125 and is contained within the approved budget for audit services.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

13. There are no health & safety implications contained within this report. The scrutiny provided by Internal Audit as part of the work to be undertaken on the proposed plan, will assist the Authority in assuring itself any necessary procedures and risk management processes are already in place or will be implemented as a result of the audit.

Environmental Implications

14. There are no environmental implications contained within this report.

Contribution to Our Vision: To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.

Our Purpose: Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.

15. Internal Audit assists in the evaluation and enhancement of sound internal control arrangements that contribute towards ensuring the Authority's Vision and approved policies and plans continue to drive decision making within the service.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AGS	Annual Governance Statement
CAE	Chief Audit Executive
IAC	Internal Audit Charter
GIAS	Global Internal Audit Standards
LCC IAS	Liverpool City Council's Internal Audit Service
MFRA	Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
QAIP	Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme
SLT	Strategic Leadership Team