

<b>Report title</b>	<b>Internal Audit Charter 2024-25</b>
<b>Report author</b>	Neil Pitman, Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership
<b>Department</b>	Southern Internal Audit Partnership
<b>Exempt?</b>	No

**Purpose of report:**

**To resolve**

**Synopsis of report:**

**To present for approval the Internal Audit Charter for 2024-25**

**Recommendation(s):**

**To approve the Internal Audit Charter 2024-25**

**1. Context and background of report**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the Internal Audit Charter for 2024-25 in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (Appendix 'A').

**2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended**

2.1 The Internal Audit Charter is a formal document that defines the internal audit activity's purpose, authority and responsibility consistent with the Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Standards. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the charter to be reviewed and approved annually.

2.2 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 state:

*'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 auditing standards or guidance'*

2.3 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (attribute 1000) requires that all internal audit activities maintain an 'internal audit charter'. The internal audit charter establishes internal audit's position within the organisation including:

- Recognising the mandatory nature of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
- Defining the scope of internal audit responsibilities
- Establishing the organisational independence of internal audit
- Establishing accountability and reporting lines (functional and administrative)
- Arrangements that exist with regard anti-fraud and anti-corruption

- Establishing internal audit rights of access
- 2.4 In accordance with the Standards, the internal audit charter should be reviewed annually (minimum) and approved by senior management and this Committee.
- 3. Resource implications/Value for Money**
- 3.1 The audit service is budgeted for in the Council's annual budgets.
- 4. Legal implications**
- 4.1 Compliance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations (England) 2015.
- 5. Equality implications**
- 5.1 None.
- 6. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**
- 6.1 None.
- 7. Risk Implications**
- 7.1 None.
- 8. Background papers**
- None.
- 9. Appendices**
- Appendix 'A' - Internal Audit Charter 2024-25