

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**
DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 30 JULY 2013**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**
SUBJECT: **INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To outline to members the updated Internal Audit Charter.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Internal Audit department has had a charter since 2002. It was last updated in 2011 and presented to the Audit Committee at that time. The charter formalises the status, independence and responsibility of the department and is part of the Constitution.

2.02 New Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) were published in April 2013, replacing the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government. The new standards must be followed by all internal audit departments in local government. They include new requirements for the content of an audit charter. The Flintshire charter has therefore been updated to allow for these changes.

Most of the changes simply reflect current and long established practice, but have not previously been written into the charter.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The PSIAS require that the role, scope, independence, authority and responsibility of the Internal Audit department be formally defined in a charter. Within Flintshire County Council that is achieved by the audit charter being approved by the Audit Committee and appearing within the constitution.

3.02 The proposed new charter is attached. Tracked changes have been used to identify the updates from the existing charter.

The main changes include:

- Reference to the PSIAS and Code of Ethics
- A change in wording to the definition of internal audit
- The inclusion of responsibility for auditing partnerships and collaborations
- The areas of responsibility of the Audit Committee and the line management of the IA Manager

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The Committee is requested to approve the updated Internal Audit Charter.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Internal Audit Charter Appendix A

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

PSIAS
CIPFA Application Note

Contact Officer: David Webster
Telephone: 01352 702248
Email: david.webster@flintshire.gov.uk