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| <b>REPORT TO:</b>  |                | Audit Committee   |     |
| <b>DATE:</b>   |                | 18 July 2022  |     |
| <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>  |                | Cllr Joyce Plummer - Resources  |     |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>  |                | Mark Beard – Head of Audit & Investigations   |     |
| <b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>  |                | <b>PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS<br/>SELF-ASSESSMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE<br/>&amp; IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME</b> |     |
| <b>EXEMPT REPORT<br/>(Local Government<br/>Act 1972, Schedule<br/>12A)</b> | <b>Options</b> | Not applicable  |     |
| <b>KEY DECISION:</b>   | <b>Options</b> | If yes, date of publication:  | n/a |

## 1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform members of the updated self-assessment of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) carried out by the Head of Audit & Investigations and also the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) which sets out how we manage any standards that are not compliant, thus ensuring conformance with the PSIAS overall.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 I recommend that Audit Committee:
- notes the updated PSIAS Self-Assessment; and
  - notes the updated QAIP.

## 3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 The PSIAS is the framework that Internal Audit must work within and comply with.
- 3.2 In addition to the PSIAS, Internal Audit must have a Quality Assurance & Improvement Programme (QAIP). The QAIP details any standards which are not met or are partially in conformance together with any other key issues linked to the PSIAS. The QAIP includes what steps are being taken to progress such issues and should be viewed as an ongoing improvement programme.

- 3.3 The Head of Audit reviews the PSIAS annually to ensure that the Internal Audit Service conforms to the PSIAS highlighting if there have been any changes and ensuring that any such changes are reflected in the QAIP.
- 3.4 The 2022 self-assessment of the PSIAS is attached as **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.5 The 2022 updated QAIP is attached as **APPENDIX 2**.

#### **4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Ensuring that a self-assessment of the PSiAs is carried out by an appropriately qualified person and that a QAIP is in place are both requirements of the PSiAs. The only alternative would be to not do either of these tasks, however, this would be non-conformance with the PSiAs.

#### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 No consultations required.

#### **6. Implications**

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| <b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>  | There are no financial implications arising from this report   |
| <b>Legal and human rights implications</b>  | There are no legal or human rights implications arising from this report.  |
| <b>Assessment of risk</b>   | Risks are taken into consideration during the audit process itself, there is no direct risk implication from this report.  |
| <b>Equality and diversity implications</b><br><i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i> | A Customer First Analysis is not required as the PSiAs or QAIP are not setting new policy for the audit function or Council. These two documents demonstrate elements required with the PSiAs. |

#### **7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 No background papers were necessary for the preparation of this report.