

For Decision	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Audit and Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting:	30 May 2018
Report of:	Chief Finance Officer
Report Author:	Charlotte Radford
Other Contacts:	Brian Welch
Agenda Item:	6

INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN 2018-19

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the proposed plan of work for 2018-19.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider and approve the audit plan for 2018-19 attached at **Appendix A**.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 This complies with good governance and financial regulations

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 The internal auditors have met with the OPCC and force to agree the plan proposed at **Appendix A**. This plan for 2018-19 has been established based upon meeting statutory requirements for auditing key financial systems, the need to audit systems where there has been a significant change in year and other audit requests based upon risks within the strategic risk register and advisory audits required to ensure the smooth running of both legal entities.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 None as a direct result of this report.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 None as a direct result of this report.

8. Risk Management

8.1 The risk register has been used in the production of this internal audit plan.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

9.1 The work of internal audit supports all of the Police & Crime Plan priorities.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

10.1 Legislative changes and potential risks associated with such changes have been considered in putting together this plan.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 The OPCC and Force were part of the process for producing this plan.

12. Appendices

12.1 **Appendix A** – Internal Audit Plan 2018-19



Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire Police

Draft Internal Audit Plan 2018/19

April 2018

This report has been prepared on the basis of the limitations set out on page 10.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 An annual proposed Internal Audit Operational Plan has been prepared on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire Police (the OPCC and Force) for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.
- 1.2 As part of fulfilling the Joint Audit & Scrutiny Panel's (JASP) responsibilities, the JASP require assurance that it is focusing its attention on the key risks to the OPCC and Force and that it is receiving timely and effective assurance with regards the management of those risks. As Internal Audit is a one source of this assurance, Internal Audit have reviewed the OPCC / Force Risk Register with the aim of identifying where the OPCC / Force obtains this assurance and that the Internal Audit plan is suitably focused and aligned with other sources of assurance. The results of this exercise were considered when drawing the audit plan.
- 1.3 **Appendix A** contains our proposed **Annual Audit Plan 2018 – 2019**.

2. The Scope and Purpose of Internal Audit

- 2.1 Internal Audit's primary role is to provide the organisation's management with independent assurance on the effectiveness of the internal control systems that contribute to the achievement of the organisation's business objectives. In so doing, this will support the OPCC and Force in signing the Annual Governance Statement. It is also Internal Audit's role to provide the OPCC and Force with assurance that they have in place effective processes for the management of risk.
- 2.2 In drawing up the internal audit work programme it should be noted that:
 - The OPCC and Force are accountable for internal control. The OPCC and Force are responsible for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the organisation's objectives, and for reviewing its effectiveness;
 - The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve these objectives;
 - The system of internal control can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness; and
 - The system of internal control is based on an on-going risk management process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the organisation's objectives; to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks; and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

2.3 As set out in the Audit Charter, Internal Audit fulfils its role by:

- Coordinating assurance activities with other assurance providers (such as the external auditors and HMIC) such that the assurance needs of the OPCC and Force, regulators and other stakeholders are met in the most effective way.
- Evaluating and assessing the implications of new or changing systems, products, services, operations and control processes.
- Carrying out assurance and consulting activities across all aspects of the OPCC and Force's business based on a risk-based plan agreed with the Joint Audit & Scrutiny Panel (JASP).
- Providing the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the key controls associated with the management of risk in the area being audited.
- Issuing periodic reports to the JASP and Senior Management Team summarising results of assurance activities.
- Re-enforcing an anti-fraud, anti-bribery and anti-corruption culture within the OPCC and Force to aid the prevention and detection of fraud.
- Assisting in the investigation of allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption within the OPCC and Force and notifying management and the JASP of the results.
- Assessing the adequacy of remedial action to address significant risk and control issues reported to the JASP. Responsibility for remedial action in response to audit findings rests with line management.

3. Approach

- 3.1 As part of fulfilling the Joint Audit & Scrutiny Panel's (JASP) responsibilities, the JASP require assurance that it is focusing its attention on the key risks to the OPCC and Force and that it is receiving timely and effective assurance with regards the management of those risks. As Internal Audit is a one source of this assurance, Internal Audit have reviewed the OPCC / Force Risk Register with the aim of identifying where the OPCC / Force obtains this assurance and that the Internal Audit plan is suitably focused and aligned with other sources of assurance. The results of this exercise were considered when drawing the audit plan.

- 3.2 The Assurance Framework provides a top-down identification and analysis of the assurance needs of the JASP, and aims to provide a co-ordinated view of the activity of the various assurance providers and therefore the right combination of direct, risk and independent assurance activities as shown below:



- 3.3 In drawing up the operational audit plan, the assurance review of the OPCC / Force risk register identified where the OPCC / Force obtained assurance it was managing its key risks, with the aim of aligning the Internal Audit plan with other sources of assurance. Audit were supported by management in conducting this review. The review was carried out through discussions with appropriate staff and review of documents to confirm the adequacy of the assurance processes in place. In particular, the review consisted of:

- Reviewing the key strategic risks (OPCC and Force) that the JASP require assurance on.
- Using the 'three lines of defence' model referred to above, considering the key sources of assurance that the risks are being effectively managed.
- Identifying and agreeing gaps in assurance.
- Agreeing whether the gaps should be addressed and, if so, whether Internal Audit were the appropriate source of that assurance.

In determining Internal Audit's current and future role in the 'assurance landscape', it should be noted that Internal Audit has a wider remit than purely focusing on just those risks set out in the OPCC / Force Strategic Risk Register, and is required to provide assurance on the systems of internal control, risk management and governance arrangements. For this reason, we also considered other key areas of assurance, including those relating to Finance, Governance, Procurement, Information Technology and Risk Management.

- 3.4 Through a focused approach to assurance, the internal audit service can be utilised to provide the right level of assurance, it can avoid unnecessary use of its finite resources and it can support the OPCC and Force in maintaining an effective Assurance Framework. Internal Audit, through its support for the Assurance Framework, should:
- support the OPCC and Force in managing its risks through the establishment (and, more importantly, the maintenance) of an Assurance Framework that is fit for purpose;
 - look to other sources of assurance and assurance providers, including third party assurance, to supplement the resources of the internal audit team;
 - work alongside other assurance providers, such as External Audit, to more effectively provide assurance and avoid duplication; and
 - through risk-based auditing, focus internal audit resource on what is really important to each organisation.
- 3.5 Further to the above risk identification process, it should also be remembered that Nottinghamshire form part of the wider East Midlands Policing Region and, as such, collaborate on a wide variety of services. The aim will therefore be to, wherever possible, align the audit plans across the region in order to secure efficiencies through collaborative auditing.

4 External Audit Consultation

- 4.1 We liaise closely with your external auditors in preparing, and then delivering, a co-ordinated approach to the provision of assurance.
- 4.2 We speak regularly with the External Auditors to consult on audit plans; discuss matters of mutual interest; discuss common understanding of audit techniques; methods and terminology; and to seek opportunities for co-operation in the conduct of audit work. In particular, we will offer the External Auditors the opportunity to rely on our work where appropriate, provided this does not prejudice our independence.
- 4.3 Internal audit forms a significant part of the organisation's governance arrangements and it is therefore also important that Internal and External Audit have an effective working relationship. To facilitate this relationship we included in the Audit Charter liaison arrangement with the external auditors under the Public Internal Audit Standards. The key principles behind this agreement are:
- a willingness and commitment to working together;
 - clear and open lines of communication; and
 - avoidance of duplication of work where possible.

Appendix A – Annual Audit Plan 2018-19

AUDITABLE AREA	PROPOSED TIMING ¹	JASP ²	PLAN DAYS	Commentary on Coverage
Core Assurance				
<p>Core Financial Systems Assurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Ledger • Payroll • Cash & Bank • Payments & Creditors • Income & Debtors 	Q3	Feb 2019	25	<p>To provide assurance with regards the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of internal control in operation to manage the core financial systems. The scope of the work will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and procedures • Access controls • Amendments to standing data • Reconciliations • Authorisation routines • Reporting <p>Similar to in previous years, the audit will include operations within the Multi-Force Shared Service (MFSS). See OPCC001.</p>
Code of Governance	Q1	July 2018	8	<p>To provide assurance with regards compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance. In particular, it will review the process for compiling the Annual Governance Statement and will provide a challenge with regards the evidence collected to support the declaration.</p>
Strategic & Operational Risk Assurance				
Partnership Working	Q4	Feb 2019	10	<p>The audit will provide assurance with regards how the Force and OPCC work with their key strategic partners.</p> <p>The audit will focus on, for a sample of strategic partnerships, the governance arrangements underpinning the partnership, including the rationale / aims of the partnership, decision-making, objectives, budget implications, performance and risk management.</p>

AUDITABLE AREA	PROPOSED TIMING ¹	JASP ²	PLAN DAYS	Commentary on Coverage
Commissioning	Q2	Nov 2018	10	The audit will provide assurance with regards the controls and processes in place to ensure that there is an effective Commissioning Framework in place that contributes to the delivery of the Police & Crime Plan. See OPCC003.
MFSS Contract Management	Q1	July 2018	8	In light of the reliance placed on the Multi Force Shared Service (MFSS) to deliver services to the force, and taking account of the ongoing work internal audit have carried out on site at MFSS as part of the core financial systems audits, this audit will provide assurance that the force have robust contract monitoring arrangements in place to manage its relationship with the shared service.
IT Strategy	Q1	July 2018	10	To provide assurance that a clear and effective IT Strategy has been developed and that it supports the delivery of the Force's corporate objectives. See SRR004.
Seized Property	Q3	Feb 2019	10	An audit took place in 2017/18 of Seized Property for which a limited assurance opinion was given. It was determined weaknesses in the systems of internal controls are such to put the Organisation's objectives at risk. The area will be revisited to provide assurance that the Force has effective controls in place for the receipting, storage, management and disposal of seized property. It will also determine the extent to which previous recommendations have been implemented.
Information Technology - GDPR	Q3	Feb 2019	10	Using computer specialist resource, the objective will be to provide assurance with regards the force's implementation of, and adherence to, the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that will apply from 25 th May 2018. See SRR008.
Health & Safety	Q2	Nov 2018	7	It will provide assurance that the Force has effective processes in place in respect of health and safety and these are being consistently applied.
Firearms Licensing	Q4	May 2019	8	To provide assurance that the Force has effective controls in place for the management / issue of licences and the holding of firearms.

AUDITABLE AREA	PROPOSED TIMING ¹	JASP ²	PLAN DAYS	Commentary on Coverage
Collaboration				
Collaboration	Q3 & Q4	Nov 2018 & Feb 2019	10	Resources have been allocated across each OPCC / Force in order to provide assurance with regards the systems and controls in place to deliver specific elements of regional collaboration. The intention would be to carry out audit reviews across the region. Consideration will be given to assessing whether the area of collaboration is delivering against its original objectives and what arrangements are in place, from an OPCC / Force perspective, for monitoring and managing the service.
Other				
Audit Management	Ongoing		14	This includes audit planning, production of progress and annual reports, and attendance at progress and JASP meetings.
Follow-up of Limited Assurance Report	Q2		3	Audit will follow-up the recommendations made in recent limited assurance reports where there is no specific audit of the area in the plan.
Contingency			7	To allow for additional / unforeseen audits to be carried out in agreement with the JASP and management.
TOTAL			140	

¹ Proposed timings for each audit to be agreed, with any changes reported to the JASP.

² Dates for delivery to the JASP are estimates at this stage and will be updated when future meeting dates are known and when precise fieldwork dates have been agreed.

Appendix B – Levels of Assurance & Opinions

Definitions of Assurance Levels		
Assurance Level	Adequacy of system design	Effectiveness of operating controls
Significant Assurance:	There is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the Organisation's objectives.	The control processes tested are being consistently applied.
Satisfactory Assurance:	While there is a basically sound system of internal control, there are weaknesses which put some of the Organisation's objectives at risk.	There is evidence that the level of non-compliance with some of the control processes may put some of the Organisation's objectives at risk.
Limited Assurance:	Weaknesses in the system of internal controls are such as to put the Organisation's objectives at risk.	The level of non-compliance puts the Organisation's objectives at risk.
No Assurance:	Control processes are generally weak leaving the processes/systems open to significant error or abuse.	Significant non-compliance with basic control processes leaves the processes/systems open to error or abuse.

Definitions of Recommendations	
Priority	Description
Priority 1 (Fundamental)	Recommendations represent fundamental control weaknesses, which expose the organisation to a high degree of unnecessary risk.
Priority 2 (Significant)	Recommendations represent significant control weaknesses which expose the organisation to a moderate degree of unnecessary risk.
Priority 3 (Housekeeping)	Recommendations show areas where we have highlighted opportunities to implement a good or better practice, to improve efficiency or further reduce exposure to risk.

Appendix C – Contact Details

Contact Details

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Statement of Responsibility

We take responsibility to the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire Police for this report which is prepared on the basis of the limitations set out below.

The responsibility for designing and maintaining a sound system of internal control and the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities rests with management, with internal audit providing a service to management to enable them to achieve this objective. Specifically, we assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal control arrangements implemented by management and perform sample testing on those controls in the period under review with a view to providing an opinion on the extent to which risks in this area are managed.

We plan our work in order to ensure that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting significant control weaknesses. However, our procedures alone should not be relied upon to identify all strengths and weaknesses in internal controls, nor relied upon to identify any circumstances of fraud or irregularity. Even sound systems of internal control can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance and may not be proof against collusive fraud.

The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during the course of our work and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all improvements that might be made. Recommendations for improvements should be assessed by you for their full impact before they are implemented. The performance of our work is not and should not be taken as a substitute for management's responsibilities for the application of sound management practices.

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