

Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee

29 September 2022



Provision of Internal Audit & Risk Management Services 2023-2026



Report of Tracy Henderson, Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager

Electoral division(s) affected:
Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with proposals for the continued delivery of Internal Audit and Risk Management Services by Durham County Council to cover the period April 2023 to March 2026.

Executive summary

2. It is proposed that a three-year SLA is agreed covering the period 2023/24 to 2025/26. The proposed SLA, covering both internal audit and risk management services is attached at Appendix 2.
3. The proposed annual plan of work to be carried out under this agreement, reflecting the same level of service as currently supplied, is set out in Schedule B of the SLA. The annual fee for each of the three years is also shown in Schedule B.
4. The SLA is supplemented by a detailed Internal Audit Charter which sets out the terms of reference and audit strategy for how the internal audit service is to be delivered. The Charter is subject to annual review and has been presented for consideration of the Joint Committee as a separate agenda item for this meeting.
5. In considering the agreement of the SLA, the Committee is reminded that each year the County Council's Audit Committee carries out a review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service, in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

6. As a smaller body under these regulations, there is no requirement for the Joint Committee to carry out such a review. However, in accordance with previous practice, the outcomes of the last review have been presented for consideration of the Joint Committee as a separate agenda item for this meeting.

Recommendations

7. The Joint Committee is asked to
 - Approve the proposed Internal Audit & Risk Management Services SLA with Durham County Council covering the next 3 financial years as attached at Appendix 2.
 - Approve the proposed annual audit plan and fee as set out in Schedule B of the SLA.

Background

8. The current service level agreement for the provision of Internal Audit and Risk Management Services, approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2019 expires on 31 March 2023.

Other useful documents

Existing SLA covering the period April 2020 to March 2023

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (revised 01 April 2017) and CIPFA's accompanying Local Government Application Note (PSIAS and LGAN)

Contact(s): Tracy Henderson

Tel: 03000 26968

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

No implications outside of the SLA agreement.

Finance

The proposed annual audit fee for the three year period is set out in the report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications

Climate Change

There are no implications

Human Rights

There are no implications

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications

Staffing

As identified in the report.

Accommodation

There are no implications

Risk

There are no direct risk implications arising for the Joint Committee as a result of this report.

Procurement

Purchase of Internal Audit and Risk Management Services as set out in the report