

**Central Durham Crematorium  
Joint Committee**

**27 September 2023**

**Internal Audit Charter**



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**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 seek agreement on the Internal Audit Charter to be applied to reviews undertaken as part of the Internal Audit plan for 2023/24.

**Executive summary**

2. The Internal Audit Charter defines the Internal Audit Service's purpose, authority and responsibility. It establishes Internal Audit's position within the organisation, including the nature of the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager's functional reporting relationship with the Joint Committee; authorises access to records, personnel and physical properties relevant to the performance of engagements; and defines the scope of internal audit activities.
3. The Charter reflecting the changes made to the PSIAS in 2017 was previously considered by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 29 September 2022. The Charter is subject to annual review by the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager. On this occasion, with no new revisions made to the PSIAS, it is considered that no further amendments to the Charter are required.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that in considering the content of the report, the Joint Committee approves the Internal Audit Charter attached at Appendix 2.

## **Background**

5. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), that came into effect from April 2013, and which were subsequently revised from 01 April 2017, define internal audit as,

‘an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation’s operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.’

## **Other useful documents**

Report to Durham County Council’s Audit Committee on 23 May 2023

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

### **Finance**

The broad programme of work undertaken by Internal Audit supports the Joint Committee in maintaining safe and efficient arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

There are no direct risk implications arising for the Joint Committee as a result of this report, although we aim through our planning arrangements to review the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management arrangements in place.

### **Procurement**

None.

### **Climate Change**

None.