

1. Introduction

1.1. This charter sets out the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit activity at Nottingham City Council. It establishes the position of internal audit and the chief audit executive within the organisation, including reporting relationships with the 'board'. It covers the arrangements for appropriate resourcing; defines the scope of internal audit activities and role of internal audit in any fraud-related work. It includes arrangements for avoiding conflicts of interest (**for example** if internal audit undertakes non-audit activities). It also sets out the objectives, framework and services delivered by internal audit (which are in accordance with the mandatory Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics, the Standards and the Definition of Internal Auditing as outlined in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS)).

2. Purpose, Authority & Responsibilities

Definition of Internal Auditing

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

2.2. In accordance with the PSIAS internal audit shall have right of access to all

- records, documents, correspondence, data or information systems, including those of third parties,
- assets including those held on behalf of others,
- personnel, and
- premises or land and
- such information, explanations or assistance as it considers necessary to fulfil its responsibilities from any employee, contractor, supplier, customer, partner
- Senior Management and Statutory Officers, the Executive and Audit Committee

The rights above apply equally to organisations which have links with or provide services on behalf of Nottingham City Council, its group companies, joint ventures and partnerships (e.g.: wholly owned companies, voluntary

organisations or other agents acting on behalf of the Council) where the City Council has a statutory or contractual entitlement to exercise such right. These rights shall be included in all contractual arrangements entered into with such organisations.

3. Responsibilities

The Board (Audit Committee)

The PSIAS lays out the role of a Board in relation to specific standards. In a local authority an Audit Committee may satisfy the role of the Board. At Nottingham City Council the Audit Committee fulfils the role and responsibilities of the Board as laid out in the PSIAS. The Audit Committee helps to demonstrate the highest standards of corporate governance, public accountability and transparency in the Council's business.

3.1. The key duties of the Board as laid out in the PSIAS and how compliance is achieved are as follows:

PSIAS ref	Duty of the Board	Compliance or Explanation
1000	Approve the Internal Audit charter	Comply
1110	Approve the risk based Internal Audit plan, the Internal Audit budget and resource plan including any significant* changes	Comply (budget and resources to be approved by S151 officer)
1110	Approve decisions relating to the appointment and removal of the Chief Audit Executive	This role is fulfilled by S151 officer but NCC recruitment process allows the Chair to be a stakeholder representative on recruitment panel. The Chair would also be consulted on any decision to remove the CAE.
1110	Receive an annual confirmation from the Chief Audit Executive with regard to the organisational independence of the internal audit activity	Comply
1110	Make appropriate enquiries of the management and the Chief Audit Executive to determine whether there are inappropriate scope or resource limitations	Comply

PSIAS ref	Duty of the Board	Compliance or Explanation
1110	The chair to provide feedback for the Chief Audit Executive's performance appraisal	Comply
1130	Approve significant* additional consulting services agreed during the year and not already included in the audit plan, before the engagement is accepted	Comply
1320	Receive the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme from the Chief Audit Executive	Comply
2020 & 2030	Receive communications from the Chief Audit Executive on internal audit's audit plan and resource requirements including the approach to using other sources of assurance, the impact of any resource limitations and other matters	Comply
2060	Receive communications from the Chief Audit Executive on the internal audit activity's purpose, authority, responsibility and performance relative to its plan. Reporting must also include significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues and other matters needed or requested by senior management and the board.	Comply

*Significant is taken to mean 5% of the audit plan in days.

Senior Management

3.2. The role of Senior Management includes the following:

PSIAS Ref	Role
1000	Approve the internal audit charter
1100	Allow the Chief Audit Executive direct and unrestricted access to meet with them and report to them
1111	The chief executive to provide feedback for the Chief Audit Executive's performance appraisal
1130	Receive details of any impairment to independence or objectivity disclosed by the Chief Audit Executive
2010	Input to the risk based Internal Audit plan
2060 & 2500	Receive periodic reports from the Chief Audit Executive on internal audit activity that includes follow up reports
1312	Act as sponsor for external assessments of the Internal Audit function

PSIAS Ref	Role
1320	Receive the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme from the Chief Audit Executive
1322	Receive disclosure of non-conformance with PSIAS from the Chief Audit Executive
2020 & 2030	Receive communications from the Chief Audit Executive on internal audit's audit plan and resource requirements including the impact of any resource limitations and other matters
2060	Receive communications from the Chief Audit Executive on the internal audit activity's purpose, authority, responsibility and performance relative to its plan. Reporting must also include significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues and other matters needed or requested by senior management and the board
2330 & 2440	Approve release of engagement records or results to external parties, as appropriate

3.3. Within Nottingham City Council 'Senior Management' is defined as the Section 151 Officer, Statutory Officers, Corporate Directors and Directors. These officers will meet with the Chief Audit Executive on request (Standard 1100).

3.4. At Nottingham City Council the Chief Finance Officer (and S151 Officer) has line management responsibilities for the Chief Audit Executive at the time of approval of this report. The officer with line management responsibilities for the Chief Audit Executive will

PSIAS Ref	Role
1000	Approve the internal audit charter
1130	Receive details of any impairment to independence or objectivity disclosed by the Chief Audit Executive
1312	Act as sponsor for external assessments of the Internal Audit function
1320	Receive the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme
1322	Receive disclosure of non-conformance with PSIAS from the Chief Audit Executive
2020 & 2030	Receive communications from the Chief Audit Executive on internal audit's audit plan and resource requirements including the approach to using other sources of assurance, the impact of any resource limitations and other matters
2330 & 2440	Approve release of engagement records or results to external parties, as appropriate

Chief Audit Executive

- 3.5. The Chief Audit Executive is a professionally qualified (CMIIA, CCAB or equivalent) person with suitable experience in a senior position responsible for effectively managing the internal audit activity in accordance with the internal audit charter and the PSIAS Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Standards. Within Nottingham City Council the Head of Audit & Risk is the designated 'Chief Audit Executive'.
- 3.6. The Chief Audit Executive will maintain an effective working relationship with the Audit Committee, this will include:

PSIAS ref	Role
1000	Prepare and submit for approval the internal audit charter
1110	Prepare an annual confirmation with regard to the organisational independence of the internal audit activity
1110	Report on whether there are inappropriate scope or resource limitations
1130	Report for approval significant* additional consulting services agreed during the year and not already included in the audit plan, before the engagement is accepted
1312	Discuss the form of external assessments and the qualifications and independence of the external assessor or assessment team, including any potential conflict of interest
1320 & 1322	Report the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme including the assessor's evaluation with respect to degree of conformance and disclosure of non-conformance and its impact
2020 & 2030	Communicate internal audit's audit plan and resource requirements including the approach to using other sources of assurance, any significant* changes and the impact of any resource limitations and other matters
2060	Report on the internal audit activity's purpose, authority, responsibility and performance relative to its plan. Reporting must also include significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues and other matters needed or requested by senior management and the board.
2450	Deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report that can be used by the organisation to inform its governance statement

PSIAS ref	Role
2500	Establish a follow up process to monitor that management actions have been effectively implemented or that senior management has accepted the risk of not taking action
2600	Communicate to senior management and if necessary the board where concluding that management has accepted a level of risk which is unacceptable to the organisation
1000	Attend board meetings and contribute to the agenda.
	Arrange for the provision of training and technical support to keep board members informed of relevant legislation, good practice and governance issues.
	Participate in the board's review of its own remit and effectiveness.
	Access to all reports. Those considered to be of the highest risk will be highlighted and brought to their attention.

- 3.7. Progress reports will include the outcomes of internal audit work in sufficient detail to allow the board to understand what assurance it can take from that work, and / or what unresolved risks or issues it needs to address.
- 3.8. The annual internal audit report will include an overall opinion on the control environment, the extent to which the audit plan has been achieved, and a summary of any unresolved issues.
- 3.9. In addition the Chief Audit Executive will:

PSIAS ref	Role
2330	Control access to and develop retention requirements consistent with the organisation's guidelines and other requirements for engagement records and obtain approval of senior management prior to releasing such records to external parties, as appropriate.
2340	Ensure that engagements are properly supervised
2440 & 2421	Review and approve communication of results of engagements to parties who can ensure that the results are given due consideration and correct any final communication error or omission to all relevant parties. Control release of results to parties outside the organisation.

Internal Audit

- 3.10. Internal Audit's responsibilities include looking at how risk management, control, governance processes, and other resources are managed, and working with managers to add value, and improve the security, efficiency and effectiveness of their processes.
- 3.11. Individual auditors are responsible for ensuring that they operate with due professional care. This means they will follow the Nottingham City Council Internal Audit Code of Ethics in section 12 of this charter.
- 3.12. Internal auditors will make every effort to ensure a high quality service that complies with the PSIAS.

4. Position within the Organisation (including reporting relationship with the board)

- 4.1. Internal Audit will remain independent of the areas audited to ensure that auditors perform their duties impartially, providing effective professional judgements and recommendations. Internal Audit will not have any operational responsibilities.
- 4.2. Accountability for the response to advice, guidance and recommendations made by Internal Audit lies with management. Management can either accept or implement the advice and recommendations or reject it, having regard to any statutory responsibilities and overriding instructions of the Council. Internal Audit retain the right to review the relevant policies, procedures, controls and operations at a later date, notwithstanding any advice, guidance or recommendations made.
- 4.3. The Chief Audit Executive will report the results of audit work in accordance with responsibilities set out in this charter and mandated by PSIAS including reporting to senior managers and the board.

Note: The terms 'senior managers and the board' are defined above.

5. Resourcing

- 5.1. The service will be delivered to professional standards by appropriately qualified, knowledgeable, experienced and skilled staff. The Chief Audit Executive will define the mix of these attributes through the Internal Audit Training Strategy, which will be updated on an annual basis to maintain an effective and agile audit service, support the audit plan and performance appraisals.

- 5.2. Internal Audit will seek more efficient and effective ways to deliver the audit service, provide assurance to councillors and help improve value for money and quality of Council services. Internal Audit will work to introduce continuous audit with the aim of evaluating control effectiveness across key systems on an ongoing basis and highlight high risk transactions or events on a timely basis.
- 5.3. Internal Audit will work with partners from local government and other sectors as necessary to ensure we have the right skills and resources to deliver a quality driven professional service to the Council.
- 5.4. Internal Audit will work in partnership with other inspection bodies to ensure that we get the maximum audit coverage from the resources invested; taking assurance from each other's work where appropriate.
- 5.5. If the Chief Audit Executive or those charged with governance consider that the adequacy and sufficiency of internal audit resources or the terms of reference in any way limit the scope of Internal Audit, or prejudice the ability of Internal Audit to deliver a service consistent with the definition of Internal Audit, they will advise Senior Management and, if appropriate, the Executive accordingly.
- 5.6. Sufficiency of Internal Audit resources will be determined in accordance with the Internal Audit Planning Methodology.

6. Scope

- 6.1. The scope for Internal Audit is the control environment comprising risk management, control and governance of Nottingham City Council, and includes all of the council's, its partners', group and associate companies' operations, resources, services and responsibilities in relation to other bodies.. It covers all financial and non-financial related activities, systems and resources of the Council at all levels of its structure.
- 6.2. The internal control system is defined as including the whole network of systems and controls established by management to ensure that the objectives are met. It includes both financial and other controls for ensuring that corporate governance arrangements are satisfactory and best value is achieved. In determining where effort should be concentrated, the Chief Audit Executive will take account of the Council's assurance and monitoring mechanisms, including risk management arrangements, for achieving its objectives. Internal Audit may contribute to this by identifying elements of an appropriate corporate assurance framework.

- 6.3. Internal Audit will consider the results of the Council's risk management processes. Where the results indicate adequate action has already been undertaken to manage the risks / opportunities Internal Audit will take this into account. Where the results indicate that insufficient work has been done then Internal Audit may undertake a separate review.
- 6.4. The scope of audit work extends to services provided through partnership arrangements. The Chief Audit Executive will decide, in consultation with all parties, whether Internal Audit conducts the work to derive the required assurance or rely on the assurances provided by others. Where necessary, the Chief Audit Executive will agree appropriate access rights to obtain the necessary assurances.
- 6.5. Internal Audit will not undertake tasks, which are likely to compromise its independence, internal control functions or certification processes.
- 6.6. To enable Internal Audit to meet its objectives, it will undertake work within a scope of activities including but not limited to any of the following:
- review of controls within existing systems and systems under development
 - compliance with policies and procedures including Financial Regulations
 - transactions testing to ensure accuracy of processing
 - contract audit
 - establishment reviews
 - computer audit including data analytics
 - anti-fraud work
 - investigation of suspected fraud and irregularities
 - value for money reviews and transactions testing
 - provision of advice to Directorates and establishments including consulting services
 - provision of audit services to external clients.

Consulting Service

- 6.7. The PSIAS defines consulting services as follows: "Advisory and client related service activities, the nature and scope of which are agreed with the client, are intended to add value and improve an organisation's governance, risk management and control processes without the internal auditor assuming management responsibility. Examples include counsel, advice, facilitation and training." No non-audit activities will be undertaken. The terms of reference of any consulting services will be designed to avoid impairment of objectivity for future audits.

- 6.8. The PSIAS requires that approval must be sought from the Board for any significant additional consulting services not already included in the audit plan, prior to accepting the engagement (Standard 1130.) Within Nottingham City Council significant is defined as any single assignment equivalent to 5% of annual planned days; these will be brought to the Audit Committee for approval. The decision to include it in the plan will depend on the level of risk identified and whether reliance can be placed on opinions provided by others.

Fraud & Corruption

- 6.9. The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption lies with management, who are also responsible for the management of fraud risks. In support of this, internal auditors will be alert to the possibility of intentional wrongdoing, errors and omissions, poor value for money, failure to comply with management policy and conflicts of interest when performing their individual audits. They will also have sufficient knowledge to identify indicators that fraud or corruption may have been committed.
- 6.10. The arrangements within the City Council's Counter Fraud Strategy and Fraud Response Plan, requiring that the Chief Audit Executive is notified of all suspected or detected fraud, corruption or impropriety, immediately. This enables the response plan to be implemented and helps to inform the Chief Audit Executive's annual internal audit opinion and the risk-based plan
- 6.11. The role of Internal Audit in any fraud-related work will be determined in accordance with the Fraud Response Plan.

7. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- 7.1. Internal audit staff will maintain an impartial, unbiased attitude to their work and will avoid conflicts of interest.
- 7.2. The Chief Audit Executive will maintain a register of interests for Audit staff. Any interests declared will be taken into account when planning and delivering work.
- 7.3. Arrangements exist to enable audit managers to report directly to the Section 151 Officer on any activities that are managed by the Chief Audit Executive.
- 7.4. Assignment arrangements preclude internal auditors from assessing specific operations for which they were previously responsible or where

a substantive conflict of interest is identified including previous consulting activity that could be seen as impairing objectivity.

8. Business Plan Objectives

- *To deliver an internal audit service that meets professional and mandatory standards and delivers suitable assurance to the Council.*
- *To enhance and protect organisational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice and insight.*
- *To deliver an effective counter fraud service to prevent, detect and deter fraud and error.*

9. Statutory Requirements

9.1. There is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to have **an** internal audit and counter fraud function. This service is provided for the Council in-house. The **Chief Audit Executive** provides a continuous internal audit and counter fraud service and reviews the Council's controls and operations.

9.2. The services provided are in accordance with the following legal and professional requirements subject to any enacted amendments:

Legal:

- *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015* [requirement for an internal audit and requirement for officers or councillors to provide information and records requested, the requirement to take account of PSIAS]
- *Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) Regulations 2013* [powers to require information in relation to council tax offenders]
- *Criminal Justice Act 2003*
- *Criminal Procedures Investigation Act 1996*
- *Data Protection Act 2018 & General Data Protection Regulation*
- *Fraud Act 2006*
- *Bribery Act 2010*
- *Freedom of Information Act 2000*
- *Human Rights Act 1998*
- *Local Government Acts*
- *Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984*
- *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 & Criminal Finances Act 2017*
- *Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000*
- *Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) Regulations 2014*
- *The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012*
- *Theft Act 1978*
- *Welfare Reform Act 2012*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998*

Professional Requirements:

- *Relevant CCAB professional guidance including the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards*
- *Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Performance Standards Framework*
- *Information Security - BS EN ISO27001:2013*

- 9.3. The Chief Audit Executive reports to the Section 151 Officer under the Local Government Act 2002.
- 9.4. The Council adopted the CIPFA / SOLACE code of corporate governance in July 2002. This code together with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2002 introduced the requirement for an annual statement of assurance to be made. The Council has subsequently reviewed / revised their Local Code of Governance in accordance with successive updates to the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework - Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This means that the Chief Executive and Leader are required to sign a formal corporate assurance statement (known as the Annual Governance Statement (AGS)) on the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and identify any significant governance issues.
- 9.5. Internal Audit has a role to play in advising Directors regarding the processes, and reporting mechanisms needed to compile their own assurance statements, which the AGS will be based on. An assurance framework has been introduced which places greater reliance on 'management assurance'. This is obtained from individual officers around specific areas of risk and the assurance documentation completed annually at both directorate and business unit level.
- 9.6. In addition the Council is developing an assurance framework and assurance mapping in order to better achieve its objectives.
- 9.7. The audit plan is risk based and delivered to provide an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of internal control in place. The Chief Audit Executive opinion will be prepared using the following sources of assurance, Internal / External Audit work, the AGS process, Risk Management processes and assurances identified in the assurance framework. Internal Audit will work with other assurance providers to improve overall coverage and avoid duplication of effort.
- 9.8. The Chief Audit Executive gives an opinion on the internal control environment, which forms part of the AGS, which the Council is legally

required to produce as part of the final accounts. The work undertaken by Internal Audit makes an important contribution to providing assurance around the control environment, and the content of the AGS. The categories of work include but are not limited to: -

- *Section 151 work around the major and significant financial systems*
- *IT Governance*
- *Audit around the major risks and the risk management process*
- *Audit of corporate governance / business control assurance arrangements*
- *Evaluating the assurance available from other sources*
- *Counter fraud activities*
- *Work to ensure adequate whistleblowing arrangements*

10. The Annual Audit Plan

10.1. The Internal Audit Planning Methodology involves the following steps:

1. **Understand corporate objectives and risks** by reviewing the Council Plan and Corporate Risk Register
2. **Understand departmental risks** by reviewing departmental risk registers
3. **Consider local and national issues, horizon scan and consider approaches taken by others and national guidance on current areas of risk and how Nottingham City Council is affected**
4. **Consult with key stakeholders within NCC** to identify potential emerging risks and to consider the expectations of stakeholders for internal audit opinions and other conclusions
5. **Utilise the Assurance Framework** to identify any possible gaps that represent potential reviews for inclusion in the Audit Plan, this will include external providers including external auditors
6. **Consider the requirements of the PSIAS** and ensure that the Internal Audit Plan reflects the expectation of the standard.
7. **Consider the results from Internal Audit reviews/recent experience** and put forward areas of concern as potential reviews including professional judgement on the risk of fraud and error
8. **Determine the minimum level of audit coverage**, timing and scope of audits to provide the annual Head of Audit Opinion on the control environment. This includes determining the approach to using other sources of assurances and any other work required to place reliance upon those other sources
9. **Consider the level of resources available** for the delivery of the audit plan including that these are appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed.

10.2. The number of days allocated in the plan will include the resources required to provide internal audit services to external clients.

- 10.3. Following discussions with the External Auditors Internal Audit agreed that each of the systems they designate as 'key financial systems' would feature in the audit plan, unless otherwise directed.
- 10.4. Internal Audit will assess the Council against the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption. Prevention and detection of fraud remains a priority for the Council.
- 10.5. Internal Audit will continue to develop its approach to audit work following best practice to put more emphasis on reducing the risk of fraud. Counter fraud activity will include both reactive and proactive fraud work and providing further assistance to officers to better manage the risk of fraud through prevention, detection and deterrence. This will include work in relation to the NFI.
- 10.6. The Internal Audit service will be developed through:
- Keeping its plans under close review so it can respond flexibly to changes in the City Council's priorities and risks
 - Feedback from users of the service including management, the Audit Committee and the External Auditor
 - The QAIP and internal self-assessment of compliance with the PSIAS with periodic external validation of the self-assessment
 - Having due regard to other sources of good practice such as CIPFA and the IIA
 - Sharing of good practice and benchmarking with the Internal Audit services of the Core Cities Local Authorities
 - Training and development for staff identified through the Council's employee performance management scheme, through management supervision and by Internal Audit staff themselves
 - Seeking to work more efficiently, including expanding the use of technology.
- 10.7. Internal Audit operate a number of documents that govern or guide the way in which it operates as a team and with clients. These policies will be reviewed periodically and can be made available to senior management or the Audit Committee upon request. These documents include an Audit Protocol, Rotation Policy, Escalation Policy and Follow Up Policy which ensures compliance with PSIAS requirements.

- 10.8. Consultancy work will be undertaken within the limitations of existing resources and will require the same level of compliance from those allocated to the task.
- 10.9. A Charging Policy has been implemented. An appropriate charge will be made based on the type of work involved, priority and resources required. Requested work will be refused if in the opinion of the Chief Audit Executive, it fails to provide an adequate level of prioritised assurance.

11. Quality Assurance and Improvement

- 11.1. In accordance with PSIAS the Chief Audit Executive (CAE) has developed and maintains a quality assurance and improvement programme that covers all aspects of the internal audit activity.
- 11.2. The Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (QAIP) is designed to provide reasonable assurance to the various stakeholders that Internal Audit:
 - a) Performs its work in accordance with its Charter, which is consistent with the PSIAS
 - b) Operates in an effective and efficient manner; and
 - c) Is perceived by stakeholders as adding value and improving Internal Audit's operations.
 - d) To that end, Internal Audit's QAIP will cover all aspects of the Internal Audit activity (PSIAS Attribute Standard 1300).
- 11.3. The Chief Audit Executive is ultimately responsible for the QAIP, which covers all types of Internal Audit activities, including consulting.
- 11.4. All members of the Internal Audit team have responsibility for maintaining quality.

12. NCC IA Code of Ethics

The code of ethics is a mandatory element of public sector internal audit as a result of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The following requirements are set out by the standards and apply to NCC IA.

Components

1 Principles that are relevant to the profession and practice of internal auditing;

2 Rules of Conduct that describe behaviour norms expected of internal auditors. These rules are an aid to interpreting the Principles into practical applications and are intended to guide the ethical conduct of internal auditors.

The Code of Ethics provides guidance to internal auditors serving others. 'Internal auditors' refers to Institute members and those who provide internal auditing services within the definition of internal auditing.

Applicability and Enforcement

This Code of Ethics applies to both individuals and entities that provide internal auditing services.

1 Integrity

Principle

The integrity of internal auditors establishes trust and thus provides the basis for reliance on their judgement.

Rules of Conduct

Internal auditors:

1.1 Shall perform their work with honesty, diligence and responsibility.

1.2 Shall observe the law and make disclosures expected by the law and the profession.

1.3 Shall not knowingly be a party to any illegal activity, or engage in acts that are discreditable to the profession of internal auditing or to the organisation.

1.4 Shall respect and contribute to the legitimate and ethical objectives of the organisation.

2 Objectivity

Principle

Internal auditors exhibit the highest level of professional objectivity in gathering, evaluating and communicating information about the activity or process being examined.

Internal auditors make a balanced assessment of all the relevant circumstances and are not unduly influenced by their own interests or by others in forming judgements.

Rules of Conduct

Internal auditors:

2.1 Shall not participate in any activity or relationship that may impair or be presumed to impair their unbiased assessment. This participation includes those activities or relationships that may be in conflict with the interests of the organisation.

2.2 Shall not accept anything that may impair or be presumed to impair their professional judgement.

2.3 Shall disclose all material facts known to them that, if not disclosed, may distort the reporting of activities under review.

3 Confidentiality

Principle

Internal auditors respect the value and ownership of information they receive and do not disclose information without appropriate authority unless there is a legal or professional obligation to do so.

Rules of Conduct

Internal auditors:

3.1 Shall be prudent in the use and protection of information acquired in the course of their duties.

3.2 Shall not use information for any personal gain or in any manner that would be contrary to the law or detrimental to the legitimate and ethical objectives of the organisation.

4 Competency

Principle

Internal auditors apply the knowledge, skills and experience needed in the performance of internal auditing services.

Rules of Conduct

Internal auditors:

4.1 Shall engage only in those services for which they have the necessary knowledge, skills and experience.

4.2 Shall perform internal auditing services in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

4.3 Shall continually improve their proficiency and effectiveness and quality of their services.

Internal auditors who work in the public sector must also have regard to the Committee on Standards of Public Life's Seven Principles of Public Life, which are as follows:

The Seven Principles of Public Life

The Principles of public life apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the civil service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, NDPBs, and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also have application to all those in other sectors delivering public services.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.