

Internal Audit Plan: 2017/18

1 Introduction

1.1 The paper seeks to inform the Committee of the timing of this process for Partnership and seek their views on focus on the internal audit for this year. The role of Internal Audit is to act as an independent, objective assurance and consulting function, designed to add value and improve the operational effectiveness of the organisation

2 Issues

2.1 The Partnership Board Director is scheduled to meet internal audit at Edinburgh to discuss a few emerging issues and potential issues for review before the end of the year. Last year the following issues were identified and subject of the annual report's¹ focus:

Issues	Control Objectives
Horizon Scanning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strategy and processes in place to identify potential threats, risks, emerging issues and opportunities, including but not restricted to, the proposals to realign SEStran and SESplan (the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland), and / or move to become a model 3 authority.
Sustainability of Major Projects: Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strategy in place to identify alternative sources of funding to cover the expansion of information services provided; • There is a strategy in place to engage with all partner authorities, and key public and private sector organisations to maximise the access to information services across all sectors and regions; and • There is a strategy in place to cover funding of ongoing maintenance, repairs, fees and replacement costs for RTPI hardware and software in use.
Follow Up Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All agreed recommendations from the previous audits have been successfully implemented.

2.2 The Partnership Director would propose that the national review of regional roles and responsibilities across a number of policy review areas should be a focus of internal audit and its impact on the continuing operation of our functions. It is proposed a continuing focus on major projects, but also EU funded projects specifically would be welcome alongside a general follow up work on implementation of recommendations.

¹ <http://www.sestran.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-08-11-Item-8c-Internal-Audit-Annual-Report.pdf>

2.3 The usual timescale is that internal auditors seek to have final report for June 2018 Committee meeting. Any draft report, is available will be subject of an initial report to the next Performance and Audit Committee for scrutiny in February 2018.

3 Conclusions

3.1 The current emerging issues are potentially critical to the operational effectiveness of SEStran and its functions. The Committee is asked to discuss the issues identified for the focus of 17/18 Internal Audit and to propose any further issues of focus for the review.

George Eckton
Partnership Director

17 November 2017

Policy Implications	None at present
Financial Implications	Internal Audit fees included within Service Level Agreement with City of Edinburgh Council.
Equalities Implications	None at present
Climate Change Implications	None at present.