

Accounts Commission Report
Safeguarding public money: are you getting it right?
Extracts from Checklists with council responses

(b) Internal auditing function

QUESTION	YES/NO/ PARTLY	RESPONSE
Does internal auditing (IA) follow Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and other reputable guidance?	Yes	Adoption of the standards is mandatory and the work of internal audit has been externally assessed in terms of how it complies with these standards.
Is IA objective free from undue influence and independent in its thinking, work and reports?	Yes	The Internal audit manager is content with current arrangements, there being sufficient routes available to him to raise any matters of concern in this regard, should any arise.
Is IA suitably located in the council's structure?	Yes	This is not as clear-cut as it was prior to the management restructuring when the Internal Audit Manager reported to director level; none the less access to the Chief Executive, external audit and a reporting line to the audit committee are compensating controls.
Is IA sufficiently resourced to recruit, retain and develop the staff it requires?	Yes	The principal requirement is to be able to complete sufficient audit work to enable provision of an annual opinion on the systems of internal control, and for now this can be achieved within the resources available.
Is IA free from operational responsibilities that could risk compromising its independence?	Yes	Internal audit has no responsibilities for day to day tasks.
Is IA's work aligned with the council's strategies, objectives and risks?	Yes	Audit planning has regard to these issues, with timing of audits being important where services or systems are subject to change.
Does IA give senior officers and	Yes	Reports provide management

councillors clear, timely, objective, risk based assurance?		with details of the scope of audit work and findings and recommendations that are agreed in the course of each audit.
Does the Head of IA have unrestricted access to the Chief Executive?	Yes	The Chief Executive meets informally with the Internal Audit Manager as required and takes advice on audit matters as appropriate e.g. where the council is invited to respond to consultations from national audit bodies
Does the Head of IA give the Committee information that they need to make informed decisions?	Yes	Indications are that members of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee are content with the audit remit of the committee.
Is there sufficient timely training and ongoing support for officers and councillors, including you?	Partly	Occasional briefing sessions have been provided for committee members on the work of internal audit.