

7.1 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021 TO 2022

(D21-179851)

Responsible Committee: Audit & Risk Committee

RECOMMENDATION*That Council approves the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22.***BACKGROUND**

Crowe commenced as Council's new Internal Audit service provider from 1 July 2019. Under the contract, they have prepared a Strategic Internal Audit Plan (the Plan) for the three years (2019/20 – 2021/22). The attached Plan sets out the Internal Audit focus for 2021/22 (Attachment 1).

The Plan was developed in consultation with:

- the Executive Leadership Team (ELT);
- Managers across the organisation; and
- Audit & Risk Committee members.

The Plan is based on 1,100 hours of internal audit work for a three-year term as provided under the contract.

Council's Audit & Risk Committee, at its meeting on 25 June 2021, reviewed and endorsed the Plan in accordance with the Audit & Risk Committee Charter, and is recommending the Plan to Council for approval as required under the Charter.

DISCUSSION

The Plan outlines the focus of internal audit activity for the next 12 months and provides a high-level scope for the planned 2021/22 reviews.

In developing the Plan, Crowe has evaluated where COVID-19 impacts are driving changes to risk as well as current gaps in controls for Council's Strategic Risks and Council Plan directions, past internal audits at Monash, known local government industry risks, and future Victorian Auditor General Office Performance audits.

The Plan contains a blend of core reviews to provide assurance over Council's internal control systems and processes, and reviews of a more strategic nature to measure Council's process improvements, sustainability and strategy direction.

CONCLUSION

Council's Audit & Risk Committee, at its meeting on Friday 25th June 2021, considered the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 and recommends that Council approves the Plan for implementation.