



2.2.5 Internal Audit Charter

Type:	Corporate Services – Risk Management
Legislation:	Local Government (Audit) Regulations
Delegation:	N/A
Other Related Document:	

Objective

Internal audit provides an independent and objective review and advisory service to:

- provide assurance to Council and the Chief Executive Officer that the Town’s financial and operational controls designed to manage the organisation’s risks and achieve its objectives, are operating in an efficient, effective and ethical manner; and
- assist management in improving and monitoring the Town’s risk management, internal control and legislative compliance functions.

Definitions

“Risk”: AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 defines risk as “the effect of uncertainty on objectives”.

A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it. An effect may be positive, negative, or a deviation from the expected. An objective may be financial, related to health and safety, or defined in other terms.

“Risk Management”: The application of coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk.

Policy

Scope of internal audit

Internal audits may cover any programs and activities of the Town and encompass the review of all financial and non-financial policies and operations.

Independence

- Independence is essential to the effectiveness of the internal audit function.
- Internal audits will be performed by either using a dedicated internal audit resource reporting to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer or independent external contractors.
- Internal auditors report functionally to Council through the Audit Committee and are accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for the efficient and effective operation of the internal audit function.

Authority and confidentiality

Internal auditors are authorised to:

- have full free and unrestricted access to any and all of the Town’s records and other documentation, premises and Town employees; and
- obtain assistance as required from Town employees.

Internal auditors are responsible and accountable for maintaining the confidentiality of the information they receive during the course of their work.

Roles and responsibilities

The internal audit activity encompasses, but is not limited to, the examination and evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Town's governance, risk management and internal controls as well as the quality of performance in carrying out assigned responsibilities to achieve the Town's strategic objectives. This may include:

- evaluating risk exposure relating to achievement of the Towns strategic objectives;
- evaluating the reliability and integrity of information and the means used to identify, measure, classify and report such information;
- evaluating the systems established to ensure compliance with those policies, plans, procedures, laws and regulations which could have a significant impact on the organisation;
- evaluating the means of safeguarding assets and – as appropriate – verifying the existence of such assets;
- evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency with which resources are employed;
- evaluating operations or programs to ascertain whether results are consistent with established objectives and goals and whether the operations or programs are carried out as planned;
- monitoring and evaluating governance processes;
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Towns risk management processes;
- evaluating the quality of performance of external auditors and the degree of coordination with internal audit;
- providing advice related to governance, risk management and internal control as appropriate;
- reporting significant risk exposures and internal control issues, including fraud risks and governance issues; and
- evaluating specific operations at the request of Council and the Chief Executive Officer.

Relationship with external audit

Internal and external audit activities will be coordinated to help ensure the adequacy of overall audit coverage and to minimise duplication of effort.

Responsible Directorate:	Office of the CEO
Reviewing Officer:	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Decision making Authority:	Council
Policy Adopted:	20/11/18
Policy Amended:	17/9/19
Former Policy No.	4.3.5