

Appendix A Internal Audit Plan 2025/26

Updated to show position as at end of March 2026

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RISK					
Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Corporate Core	GDPR - Officer Compliance	Non-compliance to GDPR legislation	Review GDPR compliance with regards to information held within Council Buildings and Depots	12	Testing is now complete, draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed
Financial					
Corporate Core - Finance	Creditors - Deep Dive	Non-compliance with Contract Procedure Rules within departments	Review a sample of purchases between £10-50K crosscutting all departments to ensure 3 quotations have been obtained	25	Testing is now complete, draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed
Corporate Core - Finance	Income & Banking Key Controls	Errors and omissions could result in weaknesses in the integrity of financial data and statements	Review of controls within the key finance systems, looking at transactions processed during 2024/25, to support closure of accounts process	12	Audit is in progress
Corporate Core - Finance	Main Accounting Key Controls	Errors and omissions could result in weaknesses in the integrity of financial data and statements	Review of controls within the key finance systems, looking at transactions processed during 2024/25, to support closure of accounts process	12	Audit is in progress

Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Corporate Core - Finance	VAT	VAT submissions are inaccurate and are not supported by adequate documentation	To review and assess the process for making submissions to HMRC	12	Audit completed
Corporate Core - Finance	Grants Register	Grants are not being processed correctly on the Unit 4 system. No assurance that grant applications are being appropriately authorised before submission	Review grant register and a sample of grants applications to ensure that correct processes are being adhered to	12	Area never been audited Audit is in progress
Corporate Core - Finance	Trusts managed by Council	Trusts managed by the Council are not being administered in line with conditions	Establish all trusts managed by the Council and ensure compliance with the agreed conditions	12	Testing is now complete, draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed
Corporate Core - Finance	Housing Rent Collection & Control	Responsibility for rent collection has transferred from Six Town Housing to the Revenues & Benefits team. Assurance required that systems and processes are suitable	A full review of the current systems and processes following the transfer from Six Town Housing to the Revenues & Benefits team	17	Deep Dive Audit is in progress

Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Corporate Core - Finance	Revenues Recovery & Enforcement	Lack of consistency in the application of post liability orders	Post liability order process for CTAX & NNDR	12	Testing is now complete, draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed
HR Systems					
Corporate Core - HR	Payroll - Deductions	Lack of consistency in the way that deductions are being processed	To review employee approved deductions to ensure transactions are being processed consistently	17	Audit completed
Corporate Core - HR	Payroll - Leavers Deep Dive	Ex employees and agency staff potentially still having access to IT systems, equipment and buildings	Review a sample of leavers from each department to ensure that the leavers process is consistently applied	12	Audit is in progress
Grants and Verification					
Children & Young People	(GM) Supporting Families (TFG)	Failure to comply with grant requirements and failure to deliver programme objectives	Routine annual review. GMCA have been granted devolved powers over the programme and are collaborating to develop a more traditional / risk- based approach to the annual assurance work. Reviews to be undertaken once /	12	Annual work for GMCA Removed from plan, audit not required.

			twice a year as directed by GMCA and the devolution agreement		
Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Corporate Core – Finance	Grant Claims	Failure to comply with grant arrangements	Certification of those grant claims required to be certified by the Council's Head of FAIR and/or Chief Executive during 2025/26	10	Annual work Reduced from 15 days allocated within 2024/25 audit plan Audits have been completed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Operators Grant 2024/25
SERVICE AREAS					
Children & Young People	Care Leavers - Finance Policy	New finance policy is not being adhered to	Review the finance policy and sample test cases to ensure that it is being adhered to.	12	Audit completed
Children & Young People - Schools	Schools	Appropriate processes and control are not maintained over school finances	Provision for undertaking reviews at schools.	50	Proposed to undertake audits at the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elton High School – Removed from plan as due to convert to

					<p>Academy status in September 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Andrews C of E Primary School, Radcliffe – Audit visit undertaken, testing is now complete, draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed • St Peters C of E Primary School – Audit visit undertaken • Hollins Grundy Primary School – Audit completed • St Andrews C of E Primary School, Ramsbottom – Audit completed
Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Housing	Complaints Procedures	This is not part of the Councils process. Complaints not being monitored or actioned	Review of system for receiving and dealing with complaints.	12	<p>Identified within departmental risk register</p> <p>Testing is now complete, draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed</p>

Housing	Day to Day Repairs	Repairs are not completed in a timely manner and to a satisfactory standard	Review the processes in place for the day-to-day repairs of the Council Housing stock	17	Identified within departmental risk register Audit is in progress
Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Operations	Waste Management	Inadequate arrangements in place for the provision of waste services which may result in reputational damage	Review the processes and procedures in relation to the management and the delivery of the Waste Management Service.	17	Roll forward from 2024/25 New IT system being implemented Audit is in progress
Operations	Catering Service provided to Secondary Schools	Traded service is not cost effective	Review of the Service Level Agreements, invoicing and overall service costings provided into Secondary Schools within the Bury area	17	Draft report issued
Health & Adult Care	Quality Assurance on Care Market Providers	Inadequate arrangements in relation to the quality assurance visits undertaken on Care Market Providers	Review of quality assurance process undertaken by the commissioning team	12	Audit is in progress

Health & Adult Care	Direct Payments - Adults	Misappropriation of public funds intended for vulnerable adults	Review the processes and procedures to ensure that Direct Payments are being managed effectively to reduce fraud and corruption and ensure transparency and accountability.	17	Audit is in progress
Directorate	Topic	Potential Control / Governance Issue	Proposed Audit Coverage	Indicative Days	Comments
Corporate Core	CCTV	Failure to adhere to the agreement and follow the CCTV Code of Practice could impact on the Council's reputation and reliance placed on the CCTV function in supporting other agencies and community safety.	Annual review as required by CCTV agreement.	7	Annual Review Audit completed
Place	Capital Programme	Failure to meet corporate objectives and ineffective use of resources	Identify a capital scheme that has taken place. Review to ensure that best practice was followed, considering project initiation, procurement of works, ongoing monitoring, and administration of payments, record keeping and post project implementation review.	17	Roll forward from 2024/25 Removed from 2025/26 plan due to major schemes still on-going. Will be considered for inclusion in the 2026/27 plan.

			TOTAL	355	
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OTHER COMMITMENTS		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicative Days</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Completion of audits commenced in previous year: <u>2024/25</u> Corporate Purchase Cards – Unit 4 expenditure Emergency Duty Team Persona – Supporting Living – Client Finances Housing – Legionella – Performance Data Quality Debtors – Invoice Processing Chapelfield Primary Complaints Procedures Bury & Whitefield Jewish Primary Persona – Safeguarding Housing – Asbestos – Performance Data Quality Persona – Governance of the Persona Board FOI / Subject Access Payroll – Additional Hours / Overtime Payments	79	<p>13 carry forward audits from the 2024/25 plan were originally identified however, 17 draft audits were carried forward into the 2025/26 year.</p> <p>The additional 4 audits carried forward are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School • Register of Processing Activities • Recruitment Process • Adult Financial Assessments <p>As at the end of December 2025, the 17 audits carried forward have all been finalised:</p>

Audit work for Persona (separate audit plans)	36	Three 12-day audits have been agreed with Persona. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Café – Draft report has been issued • Grundy Day Care Centre – Draft report has been issued • Employment Pathway Team – audit been deferred into 2026/27 audit plan. Replaced by: • Sensio System – Audit is in progress
Post Implementation Reviews and Action Tracking First and Second follow ups	105	Up to the end of March 2026, 80 days have been used carrying out first follow ups and 36 days on second follow ups. Total days used = 116 days
Contingency for Audit Investigations / Whistleblowing Investigations	40	Reduced from 60 days allocated in 2024/25 plan as only 28 days used up to and including period 12. Up to the end of March 2026, 71 days have been used to investigate several investigation / whistleblowing / cases.
Contingency for reactive or unplanned work, management request, consultancy work, working group attendance and advice & guidance request	74	Up to the end of March 2026, 53 days have been used for reactive / unplanned work and to provide advice and guidance to departments.
Audit Service Management and administration, including service development, assurance mapping, Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme, Internal Audit Charter and Strategy, audit planning and Committee's support	200	

Provisions for annual leave / training / sickness	362	
Provision of ICT review – by Salford Computer Audit Services (System Licencing)	20	No work has been undertaken during 2025/26 due to resource issues within ICT.
Total:	916	
Combined Total:	1271	
Audit days to be delivered	689	(Exclude 200 + 362)