

**AUDIT BOARD**  
**22 JULY 2020**

**PUBLIC SECTOR INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS – EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCUREMENT**

1. Summary

1.1 The attached report provides Members with an update on the intention of procuring an external quality assessment (EQA) in the 2020/21 financial year, via a self-assessment validation exercise, in order to satisfy the requirements set out by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (Standards).

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the decision to procure an external quality assessment via a self-assessment validation, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.

3. Background and Discussion

The Standards require the Internal Audit function to be externally assessed by an independent and competent assessor on at least a five yearly basis. The last EQA exercise for the Dartford & Sevenoaks Audit Partnership was completed in November 2015 and the next is therefore due.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

Not applicable

5. Financial, legal, staffing and other administrative implications and risk assessments

Financial Implications	The cost of procuring an external assessment through a self-assessment validation exercise will be in the region of £5,000 - £10,000.
Legal Implications	Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Internal Audit must operate with due regard to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Five yearly External Quality Assessments are a requirement of these standards.
Staffing Implications	Staff resources will need to be deployed to complete the external quality assessment self-assessment. A resource budget has been included in the 2020/21 audit plan available days budget.
Administrative Implications	There are no direct administrative implications associated with this decision.

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Risk Assessment	If an EQA is not completed, there is a risk that Internal Audit is not operating effectively or in accordance with professional standards.
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6. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix A – External Quality Assessment Procurement FINAL Report (22 July 2020)

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section &amp; Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
<a href="#">Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (March 2017)</a>	March 2017	Interim Audit Manager 01322 343116	Internal Audit Partnership & Strategic Director (Internal Services)	N/A