Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
	Managing th	ne Busine	ess
All (AB)	Risk Management To support the council to embed robust assessment of risk and opportunity into decision making that encourages creativity, learning and improved outcomes.	No	Work ongoing to enhance risk management across the Council, including the inclusion of risks to delivery of service objectives now included in the new service plans in place for 2023/24
F&R (PB)	Financial sustainability To assess the robustness and effectiveness of the arrangements to manage the financial implications of the transformation programme and prepare a balanced budget for 2024/25 and future periods.	No	Work in progress
S,C&G (SN)	LGA Peer Review To assess the robustness of the arrangements to deliver the programme of work required to address the issues arising from the LGA Peer Review.	No	Planned January to March 2024
ALL (LW)	Contract Management system To assess the robustness and effectiveness of the contract management system to support the delivery of effective contract management.	Yes	Audit work complete, report being drafted
S,C&G (CT)	Cyber Security – awareness and training To assess the robustness and effectiveness of the arrangements to ensure all officers and Members have the necessary awareness to spot and avoid potential cyber security risks.	Yes	Planned October to January 2024
S,C&G (CT)	IT Asset Management To assess the adequacy of arrangements to manage both the software and hardware assets within the IT estate, including the extent of Shadow IT.	Yes	Planned January to March 2024

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023	
S,C&G (KS)	Council governance arrangements for Council companies	Yes	Work in progress	
(1.15)	To assess the robustness and effectiveness of the arrangements to ensure all effective governance arrangements are in place for the Council's companies and joint ventures.			
S,C&G	Workforce Planning	Yes	Planned January to March 2024	
(SP)	To assess the robustness and effectiveness of the arrangements to manage the Council's workforce needs and plan for future periods.			
Implem	Implementing Action Plans			
None pl	None planned			

	Managing Service Delivery Risks			
	A City that is strong and prosperous			
N&E	Pier and Foreshore	Yes	Work in progress	
(AD)	To assess the adequacy of arrangements to deliver effective management of the pier and foreshore.			
Impler	nenting Action Plans		,	
N&E	Highways Capitalised Maintenance	Yes	Planned October to December 2023	
(NH)	Programme			
	To check that actions agreed have been effectively implemented and have been embedded into the day-to-day operation of the service.			

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
	A City with a go	od quality	of life
C&PH (SG)	Alternative School Provision (brought forward)	No	Draft report with the Head of Internal Audit
	To assess the adequacy of arrangements which ensure the Council's guidance and / or policy for using Alternative Provision is being properly and appropriately applied to support achievement of the required outcomes for young vulnerable people.		
A&C	Disabled Facilities Grant (No. 31/5515)	Yes	Work in progress
	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grant have been complied with.		
C&PH	Supporting Families Programme	Yes	April – September claims completed September 2023
	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grant have been complied with.	October – December claims due December 2023	October – December claims due
	Planned throughout the year to align with the Payment by Results claim		January – March claims due March 2024
	windows set by Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.		April – June claims completed due June 2024
C&PH	Universal Drug Treatment Grant (No. 31/5494)	Yes	Planned October to December 2023
	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grant have been complied with.		
A&C	Multiply Funding (No. 31/6266)		Work in progress
	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grant have been complied with.		
G&H	Rough Sleepers	No	Audit work complete, report being
(OB)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to ensure effective support is given to vulnerable people to achieve the outcomes within the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, while achieving value for money.		drafted

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
C&PH	Independent Reviewing Officers	No	Work in progress
(RB	To assess the effectiveness of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) in ensuring children's needs are met and their outcomes improved through the support and services that they receive.		
N&E	Local Transport Capital Block Funding (No. 31/5505)	Yes	Work in progress
	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grants have been complied with.		
N&E	Local Transport Capital Block Funding – Pothole Fund (No. 31/5506)	Yes	Work in progress
	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grants have been complied with		
A&C	Anti-Poverty Strategy	No	Planned October to December 2023
(TH)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to ensure delivery of the strategy and the progress of that delivery.		
A&C	Southend Care Ltd	Yes	Work completed September 2023
(JB)	To provide an independent and objective analysis of the veracity of the Southend Care Limited 2023/24 cost model and any financing gap to the Southend City Council 2023/24 budget settlement proposal.		
A&C	Adult Social Care Living Well Strategy Action Plan	No	Work in progress
(TS)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to ensure delivery of the action plan and the progress of that delivery.		

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
C&PH (LMM)	Children's Quality Assurance Framework (QAF)	No	Work in progress
	To assess the effectiveness of the arrangements to embed into business as usual the tool used to assess the quality of social work practice, which is key to ensuring the council delivers better outcomes to young people and families.		
C&PH	Foster Carers	No	Planned October to December 2023
(LMM)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to attract, retain and manage foster carers to ensure these are delivering the required outcomes for vulnerable citizens.		
Implem	enting Action Plans		
	None planned		
	A City rising to the clir	nate chan	ge challenge
N&E	Green City Action Plan	No	Planned October to December 2023
(JG)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to ensure delivery of the strategy and the progress of that delivery.		
N&E	Parking implementation plan		Planned October to December 2023
(NH)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to ensure delivery of the plan and the progress of that delivery.		
N&E (KW)	Biodiversity Net Gain Grant ((No. 31/6499)		Planned October to December 2023
()	To certify that, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to the grant have been complied with.		
Implem	enting Action Plans		
-			
None pl	annea		

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
	A City delivering genui	nely afford	dable housing
G&H	Empty Homes Strategy	No	Planned January to March 2024
(GH)	To assess the robustness of arrangements to ensure delivery of the strategy and the progress of that delivery.		
G&H	Better Queensway	No	Timing to be determined
(EL)	Focus to be determined pending decisions to be taken about the future direction of the scheme.		
F&R (MM)	Corporate Asset Management (brought forward)	Yes	Draft report with the Head of Internal Audit
()	To assess the adequacy of arrangements in place to ensure assets continue to deliver value and meet stakeholder needs, while supporting organisational objectives.		
A&C	Community Investment Grant (brought forward)	Yes	Draft report issued to the service
	To assess the robustness of arrangements that ensure grant monies passed to the community are being properly accounted for and delivering outcomes for the citizens of Southend.		
G&H (OB)	Housing Allocations (brought forward)	Yes	Draft report issued to the service
(03)	To assess the robustness of the arrangements that ensure available housing is allocated appropriately, in accordance with council policies.		
Implen	nenting Action Plans	1	
	None planned		

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
	Change p	rogramm	е
F&R (EB)	My Southend (new platform) To assess the progress of delivery of the programme in accordance with the plan and the effectiveness of the project governance arrangements to deliver the benefits to citizens, businesses, tourists, councillors and the Council, required from the new platform.	No	Timing to be determined based on project timetable
None p	lanned		
	All Obj	ectives	
SC&G (TW)	Transformation Programme To assess the robustness of the arrangements for delivering the Council's transformation programme that aims to ensure the Council remains fit for purpose, financially stable and resilient for the future.	Yes	Work in progress
F&R	Clearing House Automated Payments System (CHAPS) payments (brought forward) To assess the robustness of arrangements that ensure valid and accurate and payments are made using the CHAPS facility.	Yes	Draft report with the Head of Internal Audit
SC&G	Staff Pay (brought forward) To assess the robustness of processes for ensuring accurate and valid payments are made to staff when these are outside of standard salary payments.	Yes	Work in progress

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
Implen	nenting Action Plans		
	Business World Enterprise Resource Planning Programme of Work	No	Work in progress
	To check that actions agreed have been effectively implemented and have been embedded into the day-to-day management of the Programme.		
	Key Financial Syste	ems - All (Objectives
F&R	National Non-Domestic Rates	Yes	Work in progress
(PR)	To assess the robustness of arrangements and processes for ensuring accurate billing and collection of National Non-Domestic Rates.		
F&R	Treasury Management	Yes	Planned January to March 2024
(CF)	To assess the robustness of arrangements and processes for ensuring secure and effective treasury management of the Council's financial resources.		
Implen	nenting Action Plans		
None p	planned		
	Advice an	d Suppor	t
	A City that is stron	ng and pro	osperous
F&R	Financial Sustainability (including Getting to Know your Business Initiatives) (brought forward)	No	Draft report with the Head of Internal Audit
	Provide ongoing support and challenge of the arrangements in place to deliver the council's Budget Transformation Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 which aims to ensure the council remains financially stable and resilient for the future.		

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
SC&G	Corporate Plan To provide support and challenge to the team updating the council's Corporate Plan which will identify the priorities for the delivery of outcomes for 2023-24 to 2026-27.	No	Work in progress
SC&G	Business World Enterprise Resource Planning Phase 2 To provide support and challenge to the project team as the risks and control environment for the planned Corporate Establishment and other required improvements are considered and / or developed.	Yes	Work in progress
	A City with a go	od quality	of life
N&E	Southend Travel Partnership (Vecteo) governance arrangements To provide advice, support and challenge to the Board as the Vecteo governance arrangements are updated as the Council becomes the sole owner of the company.		Work in progress
	A City rising to the clir	nate chan	ige challenge
N&E (LW)	Waste Collection Contract Procurement To provide advice, support and challenge to the project team to ensure robust project management and procurement processes are applied and value for money is obtained for city residents.	Yes	Work in progress. Feedback being provided as the procurement arrangements progress

Dept	Service Activity and Focus for Audit	Fraud risk	Status as at 16 October 2023
	A City delivering genui	nely afford	dable housing
G&H (GH)	HRA Business Plan To provide advice, support and challenge to the project team as the HRA Business Plan is developed to help ensure it is robust and underpinned by a sound supporting evidence base, while reflecting necessary legislative requirements and Council priorities.	Yes	Timing to be determined based on progress with developing the plan
	Change P	rogramme	
S,C&G	Transformation Board and Transformation Programme	No	Work in progress
(TW)	To provide ongoing support and challenge of the Transformation Board's role in overseeing the delivery of the Transformation Programme that aims to ensure the Council remains fit for purpose, financially stable and resilient for the future.		
S,C&G (CT	Data Strategy To provide support and challenge to the development and implementation of a refreshed Data Strategy for the Council.		Timing to be determined based on progress with developing the strategy
S,C&G (CT)	Business World Enterprise Resource Planning Programme of Work To provide support and challenge to the project team as the risks and control environment for the planned Corporate Establishment and other required improvements are considered and / or developed.		Timing throughout the year based on progress with developing the programme

Managing Service Delivery

Delivering the internal audit service involves:

- audit planning and resourcing
- managing Audit Plan delivery, which includes overseeing contractor work
- keeping up to date with the council's changing risk profile to ensure the Audit Plan remains relevant
- reporting to senior management and the Audit Committee.

Audit Activities	Resource allocation
Managing the Business	22%
Managing Service Delivery Risks	33%
Key Financial Systems	6%
Grant Claims	11%
Advice and Support	17%
Follow Ups	3%
Managing Delivery of the Audit Plan	8%
Total	100%
Total Council Audit Plan Days	590

The days required to revisit and retest action plans from previous reports are included under each heading.

The Total Council Audit Plan Days reflects the higher cost of buying in external contractors to cover internal vacancies.

Analysis Over Executive Director Responsibilities			
All	Cross Cutting	6%	
F&R	Finance & Resources	11%	
SC&G	Strategy, Change and Governance	25%	
G&H	Growth & Housing	11%	
N&E	Neighbourhoods & Environment	25%	
C&PH	Children & Public Health	8%	
A&C	Adults & Communities	14%	
	Total	100%	

Analysis over the 5 Southend Corporate Plan objectives			
1.	A City that is strong and prosperous	6%	
2.	A City with a good quality of life	34%	
3.	A City rising to the climate change challenge	11%	
4.	A City delivering genuinely affordable housing	9%	
5.	Change Programme	12%	
6.	All	28%	
	Total	100%	

	Risk Watch List		
These are other potential audits that may be considered for inclusion in the Audit Plan during the year should resources permit			
A&C	Sexual Health Service		
A&C	Mental Health Service Provision (review of current arrangements including Section 75 agreement with EPUT scoped by service)		
F&R	Critical Contracts Exit strategies		
F&R	School Audits – assess assurance available from council teams that the role of the schools Finance team to determine the assurance their function may give overall		
New areas of risk to keep watching brief			
All	Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)		
All	Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA)		
All	Social Media		
A&C	Adult Social Care Strategies 2022/27: Ageing Well and Caring Well		
A&C	Integrated Care System		
A&C	Southend Care Ltd Partnership Agreement 2022-2031		
A&C	Hospital Discharge		
A&C	Anti-Poverty Strategy		
C&P	Remodelling of Children's Centres (in house service from 1st October 2021)		
F&R	Social Value - Implementation of Strategy / Policy		
F&R	Corporate Procurement Strategy 2022- 2027		
N/A	Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Implementation Strategy		
N&E	Selective Licensing		
N&E	New Highway Enforcement Policies		
G&H	Building Safety Bill		
SC&G	ICT Project Management Office		