



Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2021/22

Corporate Priority:	All
Relevant Ward Member(s):	All
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	Not applicable
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report provides the Committee with the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion for 2021/22, to inform the Annual Governance Statement.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That Committee:

- 2.1 Note the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion for 2021/22.

2 Reason for Recommendations

- 2.1 To provide the Committee with the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion for 2021/22, in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, and to inform the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the Standards) require the Chief Internal Auditor to provide an annual Internal Audit report and opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk and control framework (i.e. the control environment) that can be used by the organisation to inform its Annual Governance Statement. This report provides a copy of the Annual Report which contains the annual opinion and the basis for this, for the Committee's attention.

4 Main Considerations

- 4.1 The overall assurance opinion for 2021/22 is of Satisfactory Assurance. This reflects the significance of issues highlighted in internal audit reviews and the actions taken by management following audit recommendations.
- 4.2 Appendix A provides a copy of the Annual Report which includes the detailed Internal Audit opinion on the Council's control framework for 2021/22 and the basis for this opinion.
- 4.3 Delivery against the audit plan has been reported to the Audit and Standards Committee during 2021/22. A summary of all reports which have been finalised since the last committee meeting are provided within the Annual Report.
- 4.4 The report also provides an overview of implementation of agreed actions arising from audit assignments in 2021/22, investigation activity and conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

- 6.1 The annual assurance opinion and report from Internal Audit should allow the Committee to develop independent assurance about the quality of the Council's internal control framework.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial or other resource implications arising directly from this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 Internal Audit is a statutory requirement as required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which state "A relevant authority must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance"

Legal Implications reviewed by: Deputy Monitoring Officer 27.06.22

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 There are no equalities or safeguarding implications arising directly from this report.

10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly from this report.

11 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

11.1 There are no environmental and climate change implications arising directly from this report.

12 Other Implications (where significant)

12.1 There are no other implications arising directly from this report.

13 Risk & Mitigation

13.1 The annual Internal Audit report forms part of the evidence that supports the Council's Annual Governance Statement and provides assurance over the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal controls to manage the key risks and inform risk management arrangements.

14 Background Papers

14.1 Not applicable

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix A: Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2021/22

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