

Internal Audit Progress Report

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Lead Member/Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Sarah Cox , Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance, Property and Resources

Corporate Priority:	All
Relevant Ward Member(s):	N/A
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	None

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report provides the Committee with an update on delivery of the 2023/24 Internal Audit plan.

2 Recommendation

That Audit and Standards Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the progress made by Internal Audit in delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 and the outcomes of the finalised audit reviews.

3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 To inform the committee on progress made by Internal Audit on plan delivery and outcome of assignments.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Audit and Standards Committee approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 at the meeting on 28th March 2023.
- 4.2 At the date of reporting, there are 23 agreed management actions which are overdue for implementation which has reduced from 36 since the last report to committee. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 The progress achieved to date in delivering the 2023/24 Audit Plan is set out in Appendix A.
- 5.2 At the date of reporting, there are 23 agreed management actions which are overdue for implementation. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 The regular reporting on delivery of the Internal Audit plan is a requirement under the Committee's terms of reference and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. If the report was not provided, the Committee could not effectively deliver its role in providing oversight of Internal Audit work under the terms of reference and Standards.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

- 8.1 The regular update reports from Internal Audit should allow the Committee to develop independent assurance about the quality of the Council's internal control framework.

9 Financial Implications

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

Financial Implications reviewed by: Assistant Director for Resources

10 Legal and Governance Implications

- 10.1 Internal Audit is a statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which state that, "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". In performing this function, the Council observes the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy and HM Treasury.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Monitoring Officer

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

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

12 Data Protection Implications (Mandatory)

12.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons arising directly from this report.

13 Community Safety Implications

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

14 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

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

15 Other Implications (where significant)

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

16 Risk & Mitigation

16.1 The Internal Audit work provides assurance over the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal controls to manage key risks and inform risk management arrangements.

17 Background Papers

17.1 28th March 2023 – Internal Audit Plan 2023/24

18 Appendices

18.1 Appendix A: Internal Audit Progress Report March 2024