



Governance Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 29 June 2023

Internal Audit Progress Report Quarter 4

Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of report

The attached report has been prepared by the Council's internal auditors BDO and is the fourth report for this financial year. It reflects the progress made for the year against the annual Internal Audit programme along with any significant recommendations with regard to the audits completed during this period.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group notes the quarter 4 progress report for 2022/23 (**Appendix A**) prepared by the Council's Internal Auditor.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

To conform to best practice and Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and give assurance to the Governance Scrutiny Group regarding the Council's internal control environment.

4. Supporting Information

4.1. The Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23 was approved by the Governance Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 3 February 2022 and includes 10 planned reviews.

4.2. The attached report highlights the completion and issuing three reports from the 2022/23 Internal Audit Annual Plan. In terms of findings:

- The Channel Shift audit received a substantial rating for both Design Effectiveness, with two low level findings
- The Safeguarding audit received a substantial rating for Design and Moderate for Effectiveness with one low level finding and two medium level findings
- The Sustainable Warmth audit received a substantial rating for both Design Effectiveness, with two low level findings
- No limited assurance reports have been issued
- Management actions have been agreed for all recommendations
- The Audit Opinion and Fraud Report are covered as a separate item on this agenda

4.3. The audit plan is substantially complete however Hybrid Mail will be reported to the next meeting as this has not yet been finalised.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

If recommendations are not acted upon there is a risk internal controls are weakened and the risk materialises.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications to the report. Indirectly a better internal control environment suggests risk has reduced and can result in a reduced audit workload and therefore cost.

6.2. Legal Implications

The recommendation supports good risk management.

6.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications identified for this report.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no such implications.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Good health and safety processes and statistics is indicative of a good quality of life.
Efficient Services	Undertaking a programme of internal audit ensures that proper and efficient services are delivered by the Council.
Sustainable Growth	There are no links between the recommendations of this report and the Council's Sustainable Growth priority
The Environment	There are no links between the recommendations of this report and the Council's Environment priority

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group notes the quarter 4 progress report for 2022/23 (**Appendix A**) prepared by the Council's Internal Auditor.

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Background papers available for Inspection:	Internal Audit Plan 2022/23 Governance Scrutiny Group 3 February 2022 Internal Audit Q1 Progress Report 2022/23 – Governance Scrutiny Group, 1 November 2022 Internal Audit Q2 Progress Report 2022/23 – Governance Scrutiny Group, 23 February 2023 Internal Audit Q3 Progress Report 2022/23 – Governance Scrutiny Group, 23 February 2023
List of appendices:	Appendix A - Internal Audit Progress Report – BDO