



Governance Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 22 February 2024

Internal Audit Progress Report Quarter 3

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 second report for this financial year. It reflects the progress made for the year against the annual Internal Audit programme, any recommended changes to the 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 considers the quarter 3 progress report for 2023/24 (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 2023/24 was approved by the Governance Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 23 February 2023 and includes ten planned reviews.

4.2. The attached report highlights the completion and issuing of four reports from the 2023/24 Internal Audit Annual Plan. In terms of findings:

- The Country Parks Income audit received a moderate rating for Design and a substantial rating for Effectiveness with one medium and two low level recommendations
- The Governance of Partnerships audit received a substantial rating for both Design and Effectiveness with one low level recommendation
- The Grant Management Controls audit received a substantial rating for both Design and Effectiveness with two low level recommendations
- No limited assurance reports have been issued
- Management actions have been agreed for all recommendations.

4.3. The audit plan is on target for completion in line with the plan.

4.4. There are two questions to assist the Group in their consideration of the audit plan. These are:

- Is the Group satisfied that there is sufficient assurance given for the audit completed to Q3?
- Is the Group satisfied with the progress made to date and to ensure completion of the plan?

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. There are no direct legal implications identified in this report.

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 Section 17 implications identified for this report.

6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain

There are no bio-diversity implications associated with this report.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	There are no links between the recommendations of this report and the Council's Environment priority
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	There are no links between the recommendations of this report

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group considers the quarter 3 progress report for 2023/24 (Appendix A) prepared by the Council's Internal Auditor.

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Background papers available for Inspection:	Internal Audit Plan 2023/24 Governance Scrutiny Group 2 February 2023 Internal Audit Progress Q1 Governance Scrutiny Group 28 September 2023 Internal Audit Progress Q2 Governance Scrutiny Group 23 November 2023
List of appendices:	Appendix A - Internal Audit Progress Report – BDO