

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 2 progress report for 2025/26 (**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 2025/26 was approved by the Governance Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 20 February 2025 and includes nine planned reviews.
- 4.2. The attached report highlights the completion and issuing of two reports from the 2025/26 Internal Audit Annual Plan. In terms of findings:
 - The Main Financial Systems audit received a moderate rating for Design and substantial rating for Effectiveness with one medium and one low level finding
 - The Business Continuity audit received a substantial rating for both Design and Effectiveness with two low level findings
 - No limited assurance reports have been issued
 - Management actions have been agreed for all recommendations
 - Follow up actions from previous audits have been completed in line with recommendations.

- 4.3. The audit plan is on target to be completed in accordance with deadlines.
- 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 audits completed to Q1?
 - 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 could reduce 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.

6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain

There are no biodiversity 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 Growth	There are no links between the recommendations of this report and the Council's Sustainable Growth priority

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group considers the quarter 2 progress report for 2025/26 (**Appendix A**) prepared by the Council's Internal Auditor.

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Background papers available for Inspection:	Internal Audit Plan 2025/26 Governance Scrutiny Group 20 February 2025 Internal Audit Progress report Governance Scrutiny Group 25 September 2025
List of appendices:	Appendix A - Internal Audit Progress Report Q2 2025/26– BDO