



Governance Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 4 February 2021

Internal Audit Progress Report 2020/21

Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The attached report has been prepared by the Council's internal auditors BDO. It reflects the current progress made 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 progress report for 2020/21 (**Appendix A**) prepared by the Council's Internal Auditor.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. 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 2020/21 was approved by the Governance Scrutiny Group at its meeting on 6 February 2020 and includes 10 planned reviews. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on workloads, progress at the start of the year was slower than anticipated but is now back on track; 50% of the planned reviews have been completed and the full programme of audits is expected to be achieved within the year.
- 4.2. The attached report highlights the completion and issuing of one report: Licensing. In terms of findings:
 - The Licensing audit received a Moderate rating for both Design and Operational Effectiveness – five medium and three low level recommendations were made, and management actions have been agreed.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

5.1. 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	
Efficient Services	Undertaking a programme of internal audit ensures that proper and efficient services are delivered by the Council.
Sustainable Growth	
The Environment	

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group notes the final progress report for 2020/21 (**Appendix A**) prepared by the Council's Internal Auditor.

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Background papers available for Inspection:	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Internal Audit Progress Report – BDO