



AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date Written	12 th February 2021
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Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	22 nd February 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Progress Against the Internal Audit Plan

(1st April 2020 to 12th February 2021)

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Audit Committee with a position statement on progress made against the audit work included and approved within the Internal Audit Plan 2020/21.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

2.1 That members of the Committee note the content of the report and the progress made against the 2020-21 Internal Audit Annual Risk Based Plan

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Head of Internal Audit is responsible for developing a risk-based annual audit plan which takes into account the Council's risk management framework. Within the Standards there is also a requirement for the Head of Internal Audit to review and adjust the plan, as necessary, in response to changes in the Council's business, risks, operations, programmes, systems, controls and resources. The Head of Internal Audit must also ensure that Internal Audit resources are appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed to achieve the approved plan.

- 3.2 The Internal Audit Plan for 2020-21 was submitted to the Audit Committee for consideration and approval on 12th October 2020. The Plan outlined the assignments to be carried out which will provide sufficient coverage to provide an opinion at the end of 2020-21 whilst having regard to the unprecedented impact of the pandemic

4.0 CURRENT SITUATION/PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Progress made against the plan for the period 1st April 2020 to 12th February 2021 is attached at **Appendix A**. This details the status of each planned review, the audit opinion and the number recommendations made to improve the control environment. It should be noted that some reviews listed have no audit opinion, for example National Fraud Initiative. This is because the audit work carried out in respect of these items is planned but the nature of the work does not lead to the formation of an audit opinion.
- 4.2 **Appendix A** illustrates that as at 12th February 2021, 13 items of work have been completed of which 12 audit reviews have resulted in an opinion being provided. A further 16 reviews are currently in progress with another 6 having been allocated and should be commencing shortly.
- 4.3 Based on the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the areas examined through testing of the effectiveness of the internal control environment an audit opinion of Good has been given to 3 completed reviews, an opinion of Satisfactory given to 7 completed reviews and an opinion of unsatisfactory given to 2 completed reviews.
- 4.4 **Appendix A** identifies that a total of 106 recommendations have been made to improve the control environment of the areas reviewed. The implementation of these recommendations will be monitored to ensure that improvements are being made.
- 4.5 It is recognised that some service areas are currently under intense pressure and where possible planned audit work is rearranged to accommodate any service requests. **Appendix A** shows that many of the planned audit reviews have now been allocated and it appears that sufficient coverage will be completed by the year end to form an audit opinion

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 5.1 Effective Audit planning and monitoring are key contributors in ensuring that the Council's assets and interests are properly accounted for and safeguarded.

MARK THOMAS
HEAD OF REGIONAL AUDIT SERVICE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Audit Universe	2020/21	Internal Audit Office
Audit Planning Files	2020/21	Internal Audit Office
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No