

**SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORT BY: AUDIT MANAGER**

**LEAD OFFICER: JOHN SCOTT, AUDIT MANAGER**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present the Internal Audit Progress Report to the Audit Committee, incorporating the overall position reached so far, and summaries of the outcomes of audits completed during the period.

## **2. Executive Summary**

2.1 The report highlights progress against the audit plan.

## **3. Background**

3.1 A key requirement of public sector internal audit standards is that Internal Audit should report progress periodically to those charged with governance. The Audit Committee has within its terms of reference the responsibility for receiving a regular progress report from Internal Audit on the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan.

### **3.2 Internal Audit Progress Report**

3.3 The Internal Audit progress report attached (Appendix A) covers the following areas :-

- Progress against the plan
- Summary of Audit work
- Implementation of Audit recommendations
- Current areas of interest relevant to the Audit Committee

### **3.4 Audit Plan 20-21**

3.5 In line with the corporate strategy responding to the pandemic, during the early part of 20/21 audit resources were redeployed to deliver key services, supporting business and protecting the most vulnerable.

3.6 As a result of this and due to the organisations overall response to the pandemic, the 20/21 audit plan was reduced in size and effectively commenced in September 2020. It is intended that sufficient audit coverage will be undertaken to meet statutory responsibilities and provide an audit opinion for 20/21 across governance, risk and internal control. CIPFA have just issued guidance on internal audit annual opinions for 20/21; this will be reviewed.

3.7 As a result of the second national lockdown and now tier 3 restrictions the audit

resources have again been diverted to support the assurance processes around the payment of business support grants. As a result of this there will be an impact on the audit plan which will be reviewed and re-prioritised in January 2021.

#### **4. Organisational Impacts**

##### **4.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)**

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.

##### **4.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules**

There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report.

##### **4.3 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights (including the outcome of the EA attached, if required)**

There are no direct E and D implications arising as a result of this report.

#### **5. Recommendation**

##### **5.1 The Audit Committee is asked to note the content of the latest Internal Audit Progress Report, position with the internal audit plan, and consider whether any of the following options are relevant:-**

- Report and make recommendations to the Executive if they feel it appropriate.
- Refer any matter under review they feel appropriate to the relevant Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny Chair or Committee.
- Seek responses from Officers on matters arising (written or verbal) to be submitted to the next Audit Committee on any of the issues raised within this report or associated Appendices. Members may further wish to request the presence of the relevant Managers at the meeting to explain performance / specific issues.
- Accept the report and continue to monitor arrangements.

**Key Decision** No

**Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply?** No

**Call in and Urgency:** Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply? No

**How many appendices does the report contain?** One

**List of Background Papers:** None

**Lead Officer:** Audit manager Telephone 873321