

SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

LEAD OFFICER: AMANDA STANISLAWSKI, 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 up to the end of September. We have currently completed 33% of the plan which is slightly behind target mainly due to the handover work, whistleblowing and recruitment. There was also additional work required on 2021/22 audits. Recruitment is proving difficult and despite two attempts we have not been able to recruit to the vacant posts. The posts are currently being advertised for a third time.
- 2.2 During the year it is good practice to review the plan and update for any changes in priorities and resources and therefore a separate report to this Committee has been made setting out the proposed changes. This plan is based on an estimate of resources for the remainder of the year.
- 2.3 Three reports have been issued since the previous Progress Report in July. These include the Medium Term Financial Strategy (High), Housing Benefit Subsidy (Substantial) and Performance Management (Limited).
- 2.4 Two additional pieces of work have also been completed at the request of management, the certification of the Test and Trace grant and the Contain Management Outbreak Fund grant.

3. Internal Audit Progress Report

- 3.1 The Internal Audit progress report attached (Appendix A) covers the following areas :-
- Progress against the plan
 - Summary of Audit work
 - Current areas of interest relevant to the Audit Committee

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

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

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Audit Committee are asked to review and comment on the content of the latest Internal Audit Progress Report for 2022-23.

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

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