

**Committee:** Governance, Audit and Performance

**Date:**

**Title:** Internal Audit Future Service Provision

Thursday, 22  
October 2020

**Report  
Author:** Adrian Webb, Director - Finance and  
Corporate Services

awebb@uttlesford.gov.uk

Tel: 01799 510421

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## Summary

1. This report sets out the current position in respect of the future provision of the Internal Audit Service.

## Recommendations

2. That the report is noted.

## Financial Implications

3. It is the intention that as far as possible the cost of an interim solution will be met from the existing budget.

## Background Papers

None

## Situation

4. In September 2020, the Audit Manager formally gave notice of their intention to retire as from the end of the first week of November 2020.
5. The current service consists of a full-time audit manager, a full time auditor and a part-time auditor, who works three days per week.
6. Two main options were considered for the future of the service
  - a. Recruit a like for like replacement – recruiting for this type of role has historically been difficult and takes a lengthy period of time
  - b. Enter into a partnership with another council – it was felt that there would be potential partners in Essex
7. Through the Essex Audit Officers Group, a request for interested parties was made. Three expressions were received;
  - a. Broxbourne, Harlow and Epping partnership

- b. Basildon and Rochford partnership
  - c. Chelmsford City Council
8. Zoom discussions have taken place, with each party being requested to submit a costed proposal by 23 October 2020, a verbal update on progress will be given at the meeting.
  9. It is likely that rather than enter a partnership from day one, there will be an interim arrangement, whereby the preferred party takes on a management role, probably lasting until the end of March 2021. If both parties are happy with the working arrangement, it will then evolve into a formal partnership from 1 April 2021.
  10. A final decision on the preferred partner, and the initial delivery mechanism, will be taken by the end of October.