

Committee: Audit and Standards Committee
Title: Internal Audit Interim Report (November 2023) and Audit Plan (December 2023 - March 2024)
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Summary

1. This report extends the Internal Audit Annual Plan that was presented to the Audit and Standards Committee in June 2023 to the end of the Financial Year. It also summarises the work that Internal Audit has undertaken during the financial year 2023/24 to date and provides details on the high risk and priority issues identified in the year to date which could impact on the effectiveness of the internal control environment, risk management and governance arrangements across the Council.

Recommendations

2. Audit and Standards Committee are requested to note the content of this report.

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. The paper references the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2023-24 presented to Audit and Standards Committee in June 2023

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	This report was sent to CMT in November 2023.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None

Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. The provision of a continuous internal audit service assists the Council in providing assurance on the control environment that supports the delivery of the Council's strategy.
7. The attached report summarises the work that Internal Audit has undertaken during the financial year 2023/24 to date and the planned audit work for the remainder of the financial year. The Internal Audit Manager post was vacant from June 2023 until the current post holder started on 30 October 2023. This has impacted on work completed in the year to date and has resulted in some audit work being deferred.
8. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require that the Audit Manager provides an annual audit opinion and report that can be used by the organisation to inform its governance statement in respect of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of internal control, risk management and governance. The plan will provide the evidence base for this opinion

Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Inadequate audit coverage may lead to failure to provide an annual opinion of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements; reputational damage and failure to comply with PSIAS	2	2	Monitoring of plan delivery and reporting to CMT and GAP, contingency built into plan for additional days if required; Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.