



## **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 5 JULY 2021**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT AND OPINION 2020/21</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The Internal Audit Service plans and completes audits to review relevant areas of risk to the Council.

Reports, including recommendations produced following audits are presented to managers. A summary report is produced annually by the Chief Internal Auditor and an overall opinion provided as to the effectiveness of the Council's control environment.

This report presents the Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report for 2020/21.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee note the report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To provide the Members with assurance that the Council is taking appropriate measures to comply with statutory requirements to provide an adequate and effective internal audit service.
- 1.2 To ensure that risks to the Council are managed effectively.
- 1.3 To ensure that the Council complies with best practice guidance identified in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) publication 'Audit Committees: A Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018'.

### **2. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 No other options considered.

### **3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require that a local authority "shall maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit".
- 3.2 In order to meet the statutory requirements the Internal Audit Service has conducted audits to review the operation of the internal control systems. The work has been conducted in accordance with Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards set by the Audit Practices Board, Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors.

### **CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

- 3.3 The attached Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report specifies the Internal Audit assurance opinion on key areas of the Council's activity for 2020/21.
- 3.4 Audit work conducted during the year has been significantly affected by the Covid pandemic and the Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 revised to accommodate work undertaken to support the Councils response to the Covid pandemic. Some scheduled audits have been undertaken in accordance with the plan and alongside targeted Covid work to support the annual opinion.
- 3.5 The Internal Audit Plan was compiled on a risk assessment basis that included consideration of the sensitivity and complexity of all risks identified. Client requests, systems being developed, and the availability of resources were also other factors also taken into account during the year.
- 3.6 The Internal Audit Plan was approved by this Committee in March 2020 and subsequently revised following the onset of the Covid pandemic and further approved by this Committee in November 2020.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **7. RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 Appropriate actions are not taken by officers and Members in response to the identification of risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives. This is mitigated by a robust system of follow up and escalation of audit matters.

7.2 Potential failure of the Audit and Risk Management Committee to comply with best professional practice and thereby not function in an efficient and effective manner. This is mitigated by comprehensive governance and reporting systems developed and implemented in compliance with relevant professional standards.

#### **8. ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Members of this Committee are consulted throughout the process of delivering the Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report.

#### **9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **10. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of greenhouse gasses.

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#### **APPENDICES**

Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report 2020/21

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Internal Audit Plan 2020/21

Revised Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 (Nov 2020)

CIPFA Publication: Audit Committees a Practical Guidance for Local Authorities 2018

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Audit and Risk Management Committee	Annual Report