



## **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report identifies and evaluates the performance of the Internal Audit Service and includes details of any issues arising from the actual work undertaken during the period 1 February to 15 March 2024. There are a number of items of note that are brought to the attention of the Members and these are identified at Appendix 1.

The activity detailed within the report supports the following priority or delivery theme from Wirral Council's Plan 2023-27:

- Working together to create a more efficient, effective and accessible council.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough. It is not a key decision.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is recommended to note the report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To provide the Members with assurance that the Council is taking appropriate measures to ensure that the control environment is effective and 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 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (CIIA).

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 No other options considered appropriate as the service is required to comply with the very specific requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for delivery and reporting frequency.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND AUDIT OUTPUT**

- 3.1 Internal Audit operate an effective reporting mechanism for Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee that summarises audit work completed and identifies issues raised on timely basis. This report supports these arrangements by focussing on the following:

- A summary of audit work completed and opinions (Appendix 1.A)
- Any items of note arising from audit work conducted,
- Any issues arising that require actions to be taken by Members,
- Performance information relating to the Internal Audit Service,
- Developments being undertaken to improve the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service.

The information contained within this report is for the period 1 February to 15 March 2024.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

## **7.0 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, reporting 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.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Members of this Committee are consulted throughout the process of delivering the Internal Audit Plan and the content of this regular routine report.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report have no direct implications for equality. However, the delivery of an effective internal audit service will assist in ensuring that the Council, its finances, and service provision are effectively managed and governed aiding the advancement of equality.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2/greenhouse gases.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report have no direct implications for community wealth. However, the delivery of an effective internal audit service will assist in ensuring that the Council, its finances, and service provision are effectively managed and governed aiding the advancement of economic, social and environmental justice for all residents.

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### **APPENDICES**

- 1. Internal Audit Update
- 1.A Internal Audit Activity Summary

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Internal Audit Plan 2023-24

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Audit and Risk Management Committee in accordance with Section B of its Terms of Reference.

(b) Internal Audit and Internal Control

(iv) Consider regular summary reports on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and actions in hand as a result of internal audit activity.

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Audit and Risk Management Committee	Routine report presented to all meetings of this Committee.