

Title of meeting: Governance & Audit & Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 24th July 2020.

Subject: Audit Performance Status Report to 30th June 2020 & Annual Audit Opinion 2019/20.

Report by: Chief Internal Auditor

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Summary

- 1.1 This is an Audit Performance Status Report for the 2019-20 planned audit activities along with the overall Annual Audit Report and Opinion 2019/20. Appendix A includes the detail of progress made against the annual plan and documents individual audit findings. Appendix B is the Annual Audit Report and Opinion 2019/20 report.

2. Purpose of report

- 2.1 This report is to update the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee on the Internal Audit Performance for 2019/20 to 30th June 2020 against the Annual Audit Plan, highlight areas of concern and areas where assurance can be given on the internal control framework.
- 2.2 In addition to this the Annual Opinion on the effectiveness of the Internal Control Environment is provided in the attached Appendix B. This opinion feeds into the Annual Governance Statement and is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
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3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Members note the Audit Performance for 2019/20 to 30th June 2020.
- 3.2 That Members note the highlighted areas of concern in relation to audits completed from the 2019/20 Audit Plan, including follow up work performed.
- 3.3 That Members note the Annual Audit Report and Opinion for 2019/20.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Annual Audit Plan for 2019/20 was drawn up in accordance with the agreed Audit Strategy and was approved by this Committee on 8th March 2019 following consultation with Directors and relevant parties. The Plan is revised quarterly to take account of any changes in risks/ priorities, in accordance with the Strategy.

5. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 5.1 The contents of this report do not have any relevant equalities and environmental impact and therefore an Integrated Impact assessment is not required.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The City Solicitor has considered the report and is satisfied that the recommendations are in accordance with the Council's legal requirements and the Council is fully empowered to make the decisions in this matter.
- 6.2 Where system weaknesses have been identified he is satisfied that the appropriate steps are being taken to have these addressed.

7 Finance Comments

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.
- 7.2 The S151 Officer is content that the progress against the Annual Audit Plan and the agreed actions are sufficient to comply with his statutory obligations to ensure that the Authority maintains an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and its system of internal control.

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Signed by: Elizabeth Goodwin, Chief Internal Auditor

Appendices:

Appendix A – Internal Audit Progress Report 2019/20
Appendix B - Annual Audit Report and Opinion 2019/20

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
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1	Accounts and Audit Regulations	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/817/contents/made
2	Previous Audit Performance Status and other Audit Reports	Refer to Governance and Audit and Standard meetings – reports published online.
3	Public Sector Internal Audit Standards	http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/standards/public-sector-internal-audit-standards

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: