

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Governance & Audit & Standards Committee
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	10 July 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Internal Audit Performance Status Report to 1 July 2024 & Annual Audit Opinion 2023/24
<b>Report by:</b>	Chief Internal Auditor
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This is an Internal Audit Performance Status Report for the 2023-24 planned audit activities along with the Annual Audit Report and Opinion for 2023-24. 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 for 2023-24.

## **2. Purpose of report**

- 2.1 This report is to update the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee on the Internal Audit Performance for 2023-24 to 1 July 2024 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.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Members note the Audit Performance and results for 2023-24 to 1 July 2024.
- 3.2 That Members note any highlighted areas of concern in relation to audits completed from the 2023-24 Audit Plan, including follow up work performed.
- 3.3 That Members note the Annual Audit Report and Opinion for 2023-24.

**4. Background**

4.1 The Annual Audit Plan for 2023-24 was drawn up in accordance with the agreed Audit Strategy and was approved by this Committee on 8 March 2023 following consultation with Directors and relevant parties.

**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 to 1 July 2024  
Appendix B - Annual Audit Report and Opinion for 2023-24

**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
1 Accounts and Audit Regulations	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/817/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/817/contents/made</a>



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	<a href="http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/standards/public-sector-internal-audit-standards">http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/standards/public-sector-internal-audit-standards</a>

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

.....  
Signed by: